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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 216 | WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30, 2013 | www.saipantribune.com | 75¢

Fund drive for PH quake victims reaches $5.5K. PAGE 2

OAG, DPS probe ongoing in mishandling of evidence. PAGE 3

NMD Corp. seeks meeting with Kilili on immigration bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp. has sought a meeting with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) on a U.S. Senate bill, S. 744, which provides a pathway to citizenship to some 11 million illegal immigrants in the U.S. and to thousands of legal, long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

This, even as the U.S. House also introduced its own version of a national immigration reform, H.R. 15, containing CNMI-specific provisions similar to S. 744.

NMD Corp. president Ana S. Teregeyo, in a letter to Sablan, said S. 744 affects the indigenous people of the CNMI

See IMMIGRATION on Page 4

3rd signatory airline's inaugural flight today

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI's third signatory airline will have its inaugural touchdown at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport this afternoon and the Marianas Visitors Authority said the entry of Dynamic Airways to the CNMI market bodes well for the islands' thriving tourism industry.

"Following several months of discussion, we were most pleased last week when Dynamic Airways announced their inaugural flights to Saipan. At this time, arrivals from Korea are expected to continue to grow strongly in the year ahead. We warmly welcome Dynamic Airways as our newest partner in Northern Marianas tourism and we strongly encourage the community to continue to warmly

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'CUC needs $2.8M to comply with 2 court orders'

» CUC may seek emergency rate relief if funds are not raised

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. needs an additional $2.8 million to meet the federal court's orders for the construction of a new oil pipeline and oil storage tank, according to CUC executive director Alan Fletcher yesterday.

If measures to raise the needed

See CUC on Page 4

New poker zoning law draws mixed reactions

This poker arcade, located just in front of the Garapan Elementary School and beside a Laundromat, is one of the poker establishments that will be required to move to a new site by a newly signed zoning law.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

While some poker parlor operators are supportive, others are opposed to a new local law giving existing poker parlors within 200 feet of schools, churches, parks, playgrounds and Laundromats on Saipan four years to relocate.

"It's a good law. I believe gaming should be out of the villages," Pacific Amusement general manager Jim Gebhard told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Of the estimated 48 poker machines on Saipan that Pacific Amusement operates, at least 25 are affected by the new local law that Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed on Friday.

"We're going to move them someplace. We are already making plans for that. We have to follow the law. The government has been very strict with us," Gebhard added.

Under Saipan Local Law 18-5, no new poker parlors will be allowed to operate within 200 feet of schools, churches, parks, playgrounds, and Laundromats on Saipan, while existing poker businesses within the

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OPINION METER
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INSIDE

BUSINESS

Japan's lock on vehicle reliability rankings is starting to ease.
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ASIA

Village elections across the Philippines were relatively peaceful.
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LIFE & STYLE

Hayden Panettiere tackles a new role as a villain in the tuneful "Nashville."
➤ PAGE 19

Local

DPL seeks Legislature's backing on 3 hotels' leases

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio sought the Legislature's backing yesterday on DPL's plan to extend the lease or execute new ones for Marianas Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, each of whom has fewer than 10 years remaining on their public land leases.

This early, some lawmakers support extending or executing new leases for these three hotel investors, should a formal proposal be presented to the Legislature jointly by DPL and the investors any time soon.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said the CNMI needs to "hold on to" long-term investors such as the owners of Hyatt, Marianas Resort, and Fiesta.

"They have shown their commitment to the community and the economy. As an individual member of the Legislature, I support an execution of a new lease to these hotels. Most of these hotels are nearing the maximum number of public land leases so in my view the proper term is execution of new leases rather than extensions," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune.*

DPL met with members of the House Committees on Ways and Means and Natural Resources, along with other lawmakers, yesterday.

Sablan said the CNMI has been encouraging new investors to come in and do business on the islands, and a number of those came in the last few years but nothing materialized beyond groundbreaking.

While he welcomes new investors, he said he also would like to see long-term investors continue to be part of the CNMI.

DPL is seeking guidelines on how the government could encourage investors like hotel owners to continue investing in the CNMI.

"I commend the DPL secretary for turning to the Legislature and run this idea with us, and get our input on the matter. To date, no formal lease extension or new one has been submitted to the Legislature but when they do reach us, we pretty much have an idea how to go about it. By us addressing the matter now, it restores confidence in the investors that they will still be able to do business on the public lands where they are currently located," he added.

Any lease of public land consisting of more than 5 hectares requires the Legislature's approval.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan) separately said he will support "any loyal investor."

"These three hotels have been with us for more than 30 years and continue to partner with us; they're like a family to us now. We opened our doors to new investors, they came in but only did groundbreaking, and nothing else. I'm not saying I am not welcoming new investors, but we should also be taking care of the investors we already have for a long time," the freshman lawmaker added.

In May this year, DPL's Tenorio asked hotels whether they are willing to consider extending their land leases and has since received positive responses.

Now DPL would also like to see whether such proposals would also have the Legislature's backing.

DPL and lawmakers said they look forward to existing hotels' continued investment in their properties.

RFPs for available lands

Tenorio also briefed the lawmakers about the ongoing review of bids received in response to a request for proposals for available public lands in Marpi and San Antonio for the development of new hotels with at least 200 rooms.

The DPL secretary reiterated that DPL will be announcing the "short list" any time soon.

Leasing public lands for new hotel development comes at an opportune time because the currently available hotel rooms are not enough to accommodate an increasing number of tourists to the CNMI.

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UFO fund drive for PH quake victims reaches $5.5K

MARK RABAGO

United Filipino Organization president Annamae Adaza, standing third from left, hands a symbolic check to Filipino community leader Eli Arago last night at the 2nd floor of the JP Center Building. Adaza is joined by other UFO members.

The United Filipino Organization turned over last night to Filipino community leader Eli Arago a cashier's check worth $5,500, which represents the money the group collected during its more than weeklong fundraising drive for victims of the earthquake in the central Philippines last Oct. 15.

Annamae Adaza, the president of the umbrella organization of Filipino groups on Saipan, said that UFO extends its gratitude to the companies and individuals who contributed to the campaign.

"The Saipan community really extended its help to the needy, we are really grateful that the community trusted the organization, knowing they did not feel hesitant to give their hard-earned money for a cause."

She also thanked the 15 UFO volunteers who helped man the fundraising booths, each one spending a minimum of 21 hours for the effort.

Booths for the UFO Philippine earthquake fund drive were set up at the Sabalu Market, Tuesday Market, and Thursday Market. Collections were also conducted Sundays at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral and Kristo Rai Parish.

Arago was pleasantly surprised at the amount UFO raised, saying that $5,500 is no small change. He commended everyone—businesses and individuals—who donated for the cause.

Arago, who will be flying to the Philippines today for a brief trip, will turn over the cashier's check to Sagip Kapimilya, the emergency humanitarian assistance program of ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.

Sagip Kapimilya provides food and non-food relief to communities affected by disasters. It also engages in rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction projects.

Meanwhile, ABS-CBN reported that the death toll in the magnitude 7.2 earthquake that hit the Visayas last Oct. 15 has reached 218.

The number of deaths in Bohol rose as more remains of victims were recovered, the National Risk Reduction and Management Council said in an advisory Monday.

A total of 204 people died in Bohol while 13 died in Cebu. One died in Siquijor. Eight others remain missing in Bohol. Damage caused by the earthquake was estimated at 2.2 billion pesos ($51 million). ***(Mark Rabago)***

Dengue-like illness reported in Yap

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—The Department of Public Health and Social Services is alerting the public that the Yap State Department of Health Services is observing an increase in the number of dengue-like illness cases in October.

Investigation by Yap health authorities revealed that the first cases were noted in mid-September 2013.

Although the cause of the dengue-like illnesses (characterized by fever, arthralgias [severe joint rash], and rash) is not know at this time, DPHSS understands that the Yap government is considering all causes, including dengue fever. Laboratory specimens were shipped from Yap to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Vector-borne Diseases in Fort Collins, CO for analysis.

Dengue fever is a flu-like illness caused by a virus that is spread to humans by the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito. The mosquito becomes infected with dengue virus when it bites a person who has dengue or dengue hemorrhagic fever. The illness can last up to 10 days, but complete recovery can take as long as a month. The signs and symptoms of dengue are high fever, severe headache, backache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pain. Nausea, vomiting and loss of appetite are also common.

As a precaution, the DPHSS is asking the public to help prevent the spread of dengue fever and other mosquito-borne diseases through the following:

■ Get rid of stagnant water; clean gutters, cover drums/barrels; change water for potted plants every 2-3 days; and properly dispose of loose tires.

■ Use mosquito repellents containing 20 to 30 percent

See YAP on Next Page

AG: OAG, DPS probe ongoing in 'mishandling' of drug evidence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» DPS chief replaces evidence custodian, places control of evidence unit under his office

Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas disclosed yesterday that the Office of the Attorney General's Investigation Unit and the Department of Public Safety are jointly investigating the mishandling of evidence in a trafficking of methamphetamine or "ice" case.

San Nicolas

Deleon Guerrero

DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero also revealed in a separate interview yesterday that he has replaced the evidence custodian and placed the control of the evidence unit directly under his office.

San Nicolas told *Saipan Tribune* that he could not comment further as the joint investigation is ongoing.

While he describes the incident as "unfortunate," San Nicolas said they are doing their best to make sure that this mistake is not repeated.

"I, on behalf of law enforcement, apologized to the court and to the public for the mishandling of the evidence in that case," he said.

A bag that contained "ice" was substituted with a fake substance, leading to the dismissal of the charges last week against suspected "ice" suppliers Le Xiang Chen and Yuhua Wang.

In dismissing the case, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho urged San Nicolas and Deleon Guerrero to look into this incident.

Camacho said it was found out after three days of trial that no one knows what happened to the "ice" that was seized in 2010.

The judge said it appears that the package in which the "ice" was kept in a locked safe at DPS was tampered with and that the original package may have been substituted with fake evidence.

Assistant attorneys general Chemere McField and Barbara Cepeda informed the court about the error after the government rested its case.

San Nicolas said they will request the Office of the Public Auditor to review DPS' policy in handling evidence.

Aside from DPS, San Nicolas said they are also reaching out to the Guam Police Department in their efforts to improve the DPS evidence room policy.

Deleon Guerrero said that GPD could help them in terms of cataloguing evidence and potential assistance in the area of making sure that there is inspection and inventory.

He said the ongoing investigation is for administrative and criminal aspect.

"We want to assure the community that we are doing something about the situation concerning the evidence facility," Deleon Guerrero said.

Part of the steps, the commissioner said, is putting the management and control of evidence unit under his immediate supervision.

"I also made changes in the staffing that are currently assigned there," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said they are also developing protocols as a sort of stop-gap measure to make sure that this type of incident does not ever occur again.

He said they are also reaching out to Office of the Public Auditor to assist them both in the investigation as well as some audit.

YAP

From Page 2

DEET as the active ingredient on exposed skin and clothing when outdoors.

■ Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants tucked into socks when outdoors during times when mosquitoes are biting.

■ Know the signs and symptoms of dengue fever. Seek medical attention if you experience any signs of dengue fever.

■ Avoid mosquito bites when traveling to areas where dengue occurs.

The department will keep the public updated of any new information regarding the situation in Yap State.

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Las Vegas Night raises over $19K for Kagman park

The Rotary Club of Saipan earned a pretty penny in Saturday's 2013 Las Vegas Night, after the civic organization's signature event raised over $19,000, according to treasurer Nhing Reyes.

The financial comptroller of Pacific Islands Club Saipan said the Rotary Club sold $36,000 worth of tickets in all and earned $4,684 from the table games, including Bingo last Saturday.

In total, gross earnings from this year's Las Vegas Night totaled $40,684. That, however, does not include expenses.

Reyes said if you deduct expenses, the club's net earning is $19,642.

The list of expenses for the 2013 Las Vegas Night include $1,500 for the venue cost at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan; $649 for drinks; $164 for decorations; $200 for best costume prize; $300 for miscellaneous expenses, $1,700 for the printing of tickets, and $16,500 for the grand prize as well as first, second, third, and consolation prizes.

Reyes said the over $19,000 net earning easily trumps the $16,000 or so earned by the Rotary Club last year.

Maria Racquel Manalo, a 49-year-old owner Day Star Fish Store Oleai, won the grand prize in the 2013 Las Vegas Night. She get to choose between $10,000 in cash or a 2013 Toyota Yaris.

Matt Smith took home the first place prize of $3,000, while Belen Nunez and Gilbert Morales won the $2,000 and $1,000 second and third place prizes, respectively. Trinidad Camacho got the $500 consolation prize.

Rotary Club of Saipan president Laila Y. Boyer earlier said that proceeds from this year's record-breaking Las Vegas Night will go toward the construction of the Kagman Children's Park.

The project will have its groundbreaking on Nov. 7.

Boyer also reminded members that instead of their usual Tuesday weekly meeting, next week's tete-a-tete will happen Thursday night. The venue, however, is still up in the air as Giovanni's has been booked for another event. ***(Mark Rabago)***

CEMETERY CLEANUP

SANTA RITA, Guam—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas Engineering Aide Constructionman Enriko Horta cleans a gravesite at the Sumay Cemetery on U.S. Naval Base Guam on Oct. 29. The cleanup was done in preparation for an All Souls Day Mass at the cemetery scheduled for 11am Nov. 2. Former Sumay residents and descendants interested in attending the Mass or for more information should contact the Santa Rita Mayor's Office at 565-2514 or 4337.

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

AIRLINE

From Page 1

welcome visitors from Korea and all our markets," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

The inaugural flight is expected to arrive on Saipan at 3:30pm.

MVA said that Dynamic Airways' service will add another 26,000 annual seats out of the Korean market. These new flights alone will ensure continuous strong growth out of the Korea market for the coming year.

Dynamic Airways will fly the Saipan-Incheon/Incheon-Saipan route twice a week starting today, Oct. 30, using a Boeing 767 with a seat capacity of 250. The twice-weekly flights are scheduled every Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The twice-a-week flights from Korea are scheduled until Dec. 14. After that, Dynamic Airways plans to expand its flights to four times a week, also from the same market.

The carrier joins the CNMI's signatory airlines Delta and Asiana airlines, which serve the Japan and Korea markets, respectively.

Arrivals from Korea soared 23 percent in September to 10,848 visitors, more than any other source market. Overall, arrivals from Korea were up 6 percent to 135,458 in fiscal year 2013 compared to the previous fiscal year.

Saipan Tribune earlier reported that Dynamic Airways was formally acquired by its new owners in May this year. Since then, the company has been working on getting the flights to the CNMI off the ground.

Dynamic Airways took over the former owner's FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) 121 Certificate as an airline operator. Besides the CNMI, Dynamic Airways has other operations all over the United States.

As a U.S. airline, Dynamic Airways is not required to secure other permits such as local permits in the CNMI.

Dynamic Airways director Kevin Lee earlier said the carrier decided to offer its services to the Commonwealth to bring to the islands fair market competition that will boost the CNMI's airlift and help revive its tourism industry.

Lee also assured that the new airline will offer a lower and fair market value for its tickets while ensuring a high standard of service.

The airline's plan is to also serve the Japan and China markets in the long run.

Dynamic Airways was founded as a charter airline in 2010 and also operates many regular flights on behalf of other operators. The airline currently operates five Boeing 767-200 aircraft.

CUC

From Page 1

funds fail, Fletcher said that CUC will have to file a petition for emergency rate relief with the Commonwealth Public Utility Commission in the next few weeks.

Fletcher said that $866,000 of the amount needed is a court-ordered contingency fund, which is to be established and monies accumulated no later than April 30, 2014.

Fletcher said that CUC has $1 million in reserve, which leaves a total of $1.8 million needed in a very short period of time.

Options for obtaining the needed funds include government funding, grant money, and loans.

"Unfortunately, loans are problematic at this time since CUC's assets are tied up by the SDLLC power plant contract, which is still in litigation," he said.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter ordered CUC last week to create an $866,000 contingency fund for the pipeline project.

Carter said that if the amount is raised through increased rates, then any balance remaining after project completion shall be rebated back to consumers.

The CUC pipeline is an eight-inch aboveground receiving pipeline in Lower Base that delivers fuel from the Mobil Oil facility to CUC power plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base.

Until the pipeline is repaired or replaced, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says it poses a threat to surrounding waters.

Carter also ordered CUC to move forward with the completion of the oil storage Tank 102 Project at CUC's Power Plant 1 in Lower Base.

These court orders are related to two stipulated orders the federal court issued in 2009 regarding, among other things, the integrity of CUC's oil storage tanks, including Tank 102.

In a statement yesterday, Fletcher said the oil pipeline project, which has been ongoing since 2010, continues to grow in scope, complexity, and cost due to EPA's added requirements.

"While CUC has protested many of these requirements, the finality of judge's order is clear and CUC must move forward," he said.

CUC, Fletcher said, has been ordered to begin construction using specific court-approved contractors at their proposed pricing.

"While there are grant funds available for most work, there is a deficit and currently no contingency funds for project and price changes that we know will occur," he said.

The Interior Department has already given CUC $2 million-plus for the pipeline project.

As for the Tank 102 project, Fletcher said the contractor defaulted on its obligations during the tank's construction, resulting in CUC terminating the contract.

He said CUC is currently working with the underwriter of the performance bond to correct the defective work and complete the project.

"However, any resolution regarding the scope of work needed to complete the project, and the performance bond reimbursement for the work, is speculative and potentially litigious," he added.

Carter has ordered CUC to move forward with construction prior to resolution of the performance bond issues.

"This means CUC will need to fund the correction of defects and completion of the tank construction project itself," Fletcher pointed out.

IMMIGRATION

From Page 1

and they want to clarify what these effects are.

NMD Corp. also reiterated its earlier position that S. 744 infringes on the NMI's Covenant agreement with the United States, "pertaining to the rights and benefits of the indigenous population."

"This proposed meeting will help enlighten the NMD Corp. which represents and advocates for the indigenous of the Northern Marianas, on what benefits S. 744, Section 2109, will provide should the 13,000-plus nonresident workers throughout the Northern Marianas be allowed to become U.S. citizens," Teregeyo said in her two-page letter delivered yesterday to Sablan's office.

It's not known as of yesterday whether Sablan will be meeting with the group, which asked for the meeting be held within the next seven days.

Both the U.S. Senate and House bills include provisions specific to the CNMI to ensure that people who were protected under Commonwealth immigration law remain protected under federal law.

"So someone who was born in the Northern Marianas before 1978, or who became a permanent resident under CNMI law, or is part of a U.S.-citizen family, will be able to remain in the Northern Marianas—just as we permitted under our own local law. These residents will be able to work and travel and after five years apply for a green card under the bill passed by the U.S. Senate and under the new House bill. Without that, their fate would be uncertain," the delegate had said.

The bills also allow workers who have lived in the CNMI since before 2003 to continue to stay and work. After an additional five years contributing to the CNMI, they can apply to be a U.S. permanent resident, if they want to.

"That's fair and it's good for our economy," Sablan said, adding that S. 744 and H.R. 15 fix problems for businesses and the CNMI economy that were created when federal immigration came to the islands.

Tropical depression intensifies but moves away

A tropical depression formed yesterday west of the Marianas and is expected to intensify into a tropical storm early this morning, Wednesday.

As of 7pm Tuesday, the center of Tropical Depression 29W was 860 miles west of Saipan, 815 miles west-northwest of Guam, and 555 miles northwest of Yap.

The tropical depression is slowly moving farther away from the Marianas.

According to the U.S. National Weather Service, Tropical Depression 29W is moving west-northwest at 13 miles per hour and packs 30 miles per hour of maximum sustained winds.

By Thursday afternoon, the tropical depression is expected to intensify into a typhoon prior to reaching near northern Luzon in the Philippines. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

POKER

From Page 1

200-ft. radius will have up to four years to relocate.

The deadline could still be extended by the Zoning Board to allow businesses to recoup their investments, among other things.

A general manager for a poker establishment in Garapan said the new local law is "not a good" one.

"It will kill poker businesses. Where will they put those machines? In San Antonio, for example, there are not a lot of customers. Only a few will go there," he said. He didn't want his name on the paper because he has yet to talk to the owners of the business.

He said they have yet to make sure that their poker business is outside the 200-feet prohibited space.

"I hope we're outside the 200 feet. I think it's about 300 to 400 feet. I hope we're safe," he added.

An employee of one of the poker businesses separately said that just like other laws passed in the CNMI, "maybe after two years or three years, they will change that again so we will see."

Another general manager of a poker parlor said he was "surprised" that such a law was signed, and knew about it only after reading the newspaper yesterday.

"I'm surprised about this. I didn't have an idea. We are reviewing the law and comment on it later," he said. His company is associated with at least one poker parlor within 200 feet of Garapan Elementary School.

A resident who just came out of the Winner's Poker in front of Garapan Elementary School said he doesn't have a problem with the new law.

"Wherever they place the machines, we're still going to play," he said, as he hopped into a pickup truck.

The number of licensed poker machines on Saipan is estimated at between 400 and 500.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), author of the local bill that became SLL 18-5, said there should be much weight put into enforcing the new law.

Within four years of the Oct. 25, 2013, the effective date of the new local law, at the end of the last full renewal period of license from the Department of Finance prior to the deadline, affected existing poker businesses need to relocate to areas approved for adult gaming machines.

These include those designated as "adult business park, tourist resort, mixed commercial, Garapan core, Garapan east, or Beach Road Zoning Districts."

For others, prohibiting poker businesses from operating within 200 feet of schools and churches is a lot better than phasing out the poker industry all at once as was proposed years back.

Poker license fees are mostly used to fund scholarships. Poker businesses pay $12,500 per poker machine, which translates to at least $5 million if there are at least 400 machines. In recent years, the number of licensed poker machines on Saipan has decreased.

May the angels lead you into paradise…
May you find eternal rest….

†VICTORIA PANGELINAN ALCANTARA
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†JUAN DUENAS BABAUTA
†URBANO CRISOSTIMO BABAUTA, SR.
†LETITIA MAY CABRERA BORJA
†ANTONIA SORAM BURNETTE
†HAROLD ARTHUR BURNETTE, JR.
†JUAN CAMACHO CABRERA
†MARIE ELAINE CABRERA
†RITA CRUZ CABRERA
†SOLEDAD CAMACHO CABRERA
†VICENTE TAISAGUE CABRERA
†ANTONIA SABLAN CAMACHO
†FRANCISCO DELEON GUERRERO CAMACHO
†JOSE RIOS CAMACHO
†ELLEN EBREO CASTRO
†ANGEL CASTRO CRUZ
†FRANCISCO ROBERTO CRUZ
†JOSEFA CASTRO CRUZ
†SOLEDAD CASTRO CRUZ
†XING CUI
†ROSALIA DE LEON
†ELIZABETH CASTRO DELEON GUERRERO
†FRANCISCA SANTOS DELEON GUERRERO
†FRANCISCO SANTOS DELEON GUERRERO
†JOSEPH CABRERA DELEON GUERRERO
†LOURDES CABRERA DELEON GUERRERO
†FRANCISCO DIAZ DIAZ
†BABY ANGEL MARY EPLEY
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†ROGER NEVIN LUDWICK
†GREGORIA ILO MALLENS
†DANIEL TUDELA MUNA
†ABEL RABAULIMAN OLOPAI
†BABY HELEN KOTOMOR OLOPAI
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†TITUS KOTOMOR OLOPAI
†ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
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†CARMEN FEJERAN SOO
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22 daycare providers complete management training

NMC

The Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute recently awarded certificates to 22 daycare center providers for completing a "Business Management Training" course sponsored by the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs – Child Care Development Fund. In this photo are CDI course instructor and NMC Business Department chair Chavel Green, seated, fourth from right; CCDF administrator Maribel Loste, seated, fifth from left; and CDI program manager Les Ogumoro-Uludong, seated, fifth from right.

The Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute recently presented certificates to 22 daycare center providers who successfully completed a "Business Management Training" course facilitated by CDI and the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs' Child Care Development Fund.

The 22 daycare center providers were given hands-on training in the areas of business planning and operations, financing, marketing, customer service, financial management, and business communications. The course participants also learned about the skills and techniques necessary to manage a small business, including how to develop a business plan.

"While consistently providing quality childcare is important to maintain a successful daycare center, having it well managed also plays a crucial role in that continued success," said acting CDI director Floyd Masga. "That's why we applaud these daycare center providers in the community for going the extra mile to improve their services by learning more about business management."

The 22 daycare center providers who received certificates at the end of the training are Bona Angeles, Maggie Arcega, Flordeliza Flores, Novelita Galvez, Yeldez Javier, Mi Ai Kim, Seon Min Kim, Ruby Rosario Legaspi, Milagros Merjilla, Albina Paman, Remedio Pangelinan, Emery Poquiz, Michelle Silvano, Catherine Tamondong, Meliza Umali, Amelita Vidal, Angelina Villagomez, Adelaida Viloria, Jaye Bautista, Emma Belarde, Gaudencia Corilla, and Rex John Penaroyo.

This training was funded by the Child Care and Development Fund Program under the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs. The CCDF program is a federally funded program whose ongoing quality childcare initiative is to support CCDF providers, teachers, and caregivers to increase their knowledge and skills in the care of young children. By supporting professional development of these individuals, improved outcomes for young children are realized.

NMC's Community Development Institute is a program that offers specialized courses and customized trainings in order to meet both the professional development and personal enrichment needs of the community.

For more information about NMC's Community Development Institute, contact the CDI Office 237-6808/6809/6810 or email CDI program manager Les Ogumoro-Uludong at les.ogumoro@marianas.edu. (NMC)

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-14-002

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TYPHOON RECOVERY MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials for CUC Power Division, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $80.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-14-002, Supply & Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 14, 2013** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **October 28, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, CUC Power Division Engineer via email alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org & Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles.warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

Yvette Bennett looking for online votes

Saipan-born Yvette Bennett is competing in the upcoming 2014 Miss Idaho USA pageant and wants your vote for the Miss Photogenic and People's Choice subcategories.

The daughter of former public school representative Ambrose Bennett and his wife Lillian wants family and friends to support her anew in the beauty pageant this weekend.

"Hafa adai family, friends, and supporters in the CNMI! I will be competing once again in the 2014 Miss Idaho USA pageant, which I got first runner up last year. I wanted to inform everyone that there is a Miss Photogenic and People's Choice winner (which will advance in the top 11 finalist) that is all voted for online. If you could kindly just take a few seconds to vote for me that would mean a whole lot!" Yvonne Bennett said in an email to *Saipan Tribune.*

To vote, go to the Miss Idaho USA website (www.missidahousa.com) and select "contestants" and right underneath you will select "Miss Idaho USA contestants 2014."

Once you have done that, you will see two links at the top of the page that display: vote for Miss Photogenic and vote for People's Choice. Just click on the links and it will take you to where you can vote.

Another alternative link is http://missidahousa.com/photogenic_voting.php?pageant=m.

Voting for the Miss Photogenic and People's Choice ends on Friday, Nov. 1, at 8pm Mountain Time, which is Saturday, Nov. 2, in the CNMI.

"I sincerely want to thank everyone who has continued to show great support as I compete once again! I have been preparing for this pageant for about a year and having the support I have in the CNMI and in Idaho is just amazing," said Bennett.

The 2014 Miss Idaho USA pageant will be held at the Nampa Civic Center in Idaho on Nov. 1 for the preliminary show and Nov. 2 where the top 11 finalists will be announced. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Manglona recuses from Taisague's lawsuit vs Inos

Taisague, Maratita appeal court order that denied their bid to intervene in Johnson case

U. S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona recused herself yesterday from Jesus I. Taisague's lawsuit against the CNMI government and Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

Manglona said her recusal is based on her husband's financial interest in the NMI Retirement Fund, which is a party to the proceeding. Her husband is CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona.

Judge Manglona said that Chief Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood of the District of Guam shall preside in her stead.

Taisague, through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, is suing Inos, the CNMI government, and the Fund in federal court for entering into a settlement agreement with Betty Johnson that, according to him, is unconstitutional and illegal.

As this developed, Taisague and Rep. Janet Maratita, through counsel Quichocho, informed the federal court yesterday that they are appealing to the U.S. Court of Appeals Tydingco-Gatewood's order that denied their motion to allow them to intervene in Johnson's class action. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Green Globe seeks 25-year PPA for almost $300M project

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Green Globe Solutions Guam Inc., along with global logistics provider Agility, sought from lawmakers yesterday a resolution or a 25-year power purchase agreement with the CNMI government for an almost $300 million wind and solar project that Green Globe has been proposing for some three years now.

At a presentation before the Legislature, Green Globe managing partner and founder Chris Thunken also vented his frustration with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., among other entities, for moving slowly on renewable energy projects.

This is despite the fact that the CNMI has among the highest utility rates on U.S. soil, he said.

He said "CUC is holding you hostage" and that the CNMI needs to "reevaluate who's telling you what to do."

Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), during the presentation, took the cudgels for CUC and the CNMI.

He said Green Globe is offering an "unsolicited proposal."

"Preferably, for me, it's always good to compete. If you say you have the best proposal, then you won't have to worry about that," the speaker said.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said last week that CUC is close to awarding a contract for a 10-megawatt solar photovoltaic power plant contract with California-based American Capital Energy Co., now that a long-awaited renewable energy integration study is "near complete."

The study paves the way for investors to work on multimillion renewable energy productions in the CNMI to help lower power costs.

Lawmakers asked for investors' patience.

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and the speaker said Green Globe's proposed rates are undoubtedly much lower than CUC's 44 cents per kilowatt hour but responding to a request for proposal would still be the best way to go.

Green Globe's revised proposal is to sell power for 20 cents per kWh, plus 2 cents to help the NMI Retirement Fund.

Depending on how much CUC will charge for distribution, which Green Globe estimates to be 6 to 9 cents per kWh, then the cost to end-consumers would be 28 to 30 cents per kWh.

However, the speaker said Green Globe could drop the 2 cents for the Fund because it will be the CNMI government's responsibility.

Just the same, the 28 to 30 cents per kWh is still much lower than CUC's 44 cents per kWh cost, lawmakers said.

Thunken said Green Globe has revised its plan, from 40- to 60-megawatt wind farm and solar energy project on Tinian and Saipan to a 71MW initial phase and expandable to 90MW.

Phase 1, he said, includes 66MW wind power on Tinian and 5MW solar energy project on Tinian and Saipan.

Agility program manager John M. Dennett also met with lawmakers yesterday.

When Senate vice president Victor Hocog (R-Rota) asked what Green Globe/Agility wants from the Legislature, Dennett said they need a "clear signal" that this is "a project that the CNMI embraces."

Dennett said they are requesting a resolution that could lead to a power purchase agreement that will indicate the "clear signal" they have been seeking.

At the end of the presentation, there was no commitment from the Legislature to draft a resolution or PPA for Green Globe but some lawmakers, including the House PUTC Committee chair, hopes that CUC will move forward with its renewable energy projects and issue an RFP so investors will have a chance to compete and the CNMI will get the best offer.

Green Globe Solutions is just one of the companies that have expressed interest in developing renewable energy in the CNMI.

Leak detection project starts

Saipan's water system from Orchid St. in Garapan to the Guma Husticia and from Beach Road to the heights above Chalan Pale Arnold and south along Texas Road is now the focus of a major leak detection and repair project being carried out by the CNMI Water Task Force and funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

This project, like the previous Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, San Antonio and Garapan projects, begins with block-to-block leak detection. Each area is surveyed, valves and hydrants flushed and tested, and waterlines are traced with microphones to detect the sound of leaking water. Where leaks are detected, a construction crew follows up with repairs or replacement of lines, valves, and hydrants.

Fieldwork on this project started Monday of this week and will continue until June of next year. The project contractor is USA Fanter.

This project is another in the ongoing effort to provide reliable 24-hour water service to all of Saipan.

The public in the project area should be aware that both the leak detection and the repair work may result in temporary water outages. The project work will begin in the area between Orchid Street in Garapan and Chalan Monsignor Guerrero between Beach Road and Chalan Pale Arnold. The task force will provide updates as the project moves into other areas. ***(CNMI Water Task Force)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SSHS PTSA meeting today

Saipan Southern High School invites parents and students to attend the second PTSA meeting of the school year today, Oct. 30, 2013, from 6pm to 7pm in the school cafeteria. This month's PTSA will be hosted by the SSHS English Department. ***(PR)***

PSS honorees in today's John Gonzales Live

John Gonzales Live today will focus on the 25th anniversary of the Public School System, featuring the 2014 PSS Employees of the Year. Guests include Lucretia Borja, PSS Human Resources Office; the 2014 Teacher of the Year; 2014 Instructor of the Year; and 2014 Teacher Aide of the Year.

John Gonzales Live airs live on Wednesday and rebroadcasts on Monday and Tuesday the following week, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on MCV Ch. 14. John Gonzales Live also rebroadcasts on Betelnut Radio (www.betelnutradio.com).

Viewers can participate by calling (287-4230), texting (285-META) (6382), or emailing (johngonzaleslive@gmail.com). ***(PR)***

Halloween Scare at Garapan Street Market

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs will be hosting a Halloween Scare on Thursday, Oct. 31, at the Garapan Street Market, Fishing Base, across Kristo Rai Church, from 6pm to 9pm. There will be a costume contest, cash prizes, and giveaways. The judging for the costume contest is from 6pm to 7:30pm, while the announcement of winners will be from 7:30pm to 8pm. ***(PR)***

Military training on FDM, Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Oct. 30, from 10am to 11:55pm
- Oct. 31, from 10am to 6pm
- Oct. 31 to Nov. 1, from 6:30pm to 9pm

The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Oct. 30, from 8am to 4pm.

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

American Red Cross

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Xerox Corporation
360 Revolving Restaurant
The Shack
Saint Michael's Medical Response

Hyatt launches 'Fare. Share. Care.' initiative

» Indulge in island barbecue fare and help send care packages to CNMI military servicemen through CNMI's Operation Homefront

In light of the Veteran's Day and festive Thanksgiving season, Hyatt Regency Saipan is announcing its efforts to give back and say thanks. On Nov. 5, 8, 15, and 22, 2013, Hyatt Regency pledges to donate proceeds during Marianas Barbecue nights at Kili Café and Terrace toward the CNMI Operation Homefront cause. The hotel has committed to purchasing the care package items and will assist in the packaging through its corporate responsibility platform, Hyatt Thrive.

Hyatt Regency Saipan is inviting island community members and leaders to join the hotel on Nov. 5, 2013, in an event to launch the "Fare. Share. Care." initiative.

"The hotel's intention is to make a difference in the lives of CNMI servicemen and their families we will positively affect," said general manager Nick K. Nishikawa.

Sunset Beach Seafood Barbecue features live entertainment, succulent seafood, free-flowing Heineken beer and iced tea for $45 (valued at $53 per person) per person. Purchase a very special certificate to express your gratitude to friends and families that are members of the armed services for the many freedoms we now enjoy. This voucher may also be enjoyed by the guest that desires to support this humbling cause.

How to help

Helping the initiative is as simple as "Fare. Share. Care." Visit Kili Café and Terrace on the dates of Nov. 8, 15, and 22, 2013, and indulge in island barbecue fare.

Be an advocate of goodwill to all servicemen by purchasing a gift voucher to express your gratitude and appreciation to any friends and families that are part of the armed force. Hyatt will share the proceeds and together, both guests and the hotel will help send care packages to CNMI servicemen. The vouchers may also be enjoyed by guests that desire to support this cause. For $30 per person (valued at $38) guests will be able to enjoy island favorites and juicy barbecue items, alongside free-flowing Miller Lite, wine and iced tea.

"We want our guests to enjoy what the hotel has to offer—exceptional service and delicious local fare, all while actively participating in this humbling cause," said F&B director Tyrell Pauling.

Purchase gift vouchers

Gift vouchers are available in the following locations: PTC's the Wine Cellar, Triple J Truck Load, Chalan Kanoa, All Hertz Rent-A-Car locations, and Hyatt Regency Saipan's front desk and restaurant outlets.

Collage

The care package will include a collage of images of guests taken with a placard stating, "Hyatt Regency Saipan salutes CNMI servicemen." This gesture will remind the local men and women in the military of the warmth and support the local community can extend, even from extreme distances.

Operation Homefront

CNMI Operation Homefront is a program created by several volunteers who gather once a year around Thanksgiving to give thanks to the CNMI servicemen for the many freedoms we enjoy today. The care packages include letters of support from school children, newspapers, magazines, postcards, T-shirts, local favorite packaged foods and other items that are unique to the islands. Special thanks to our event partners: Triple J and Pacific Trading Co. ***(Hyatt Regency Saipan)***

STELLA ARTOIS WORLD DRAUGHT MASTERS COMPETITION

Aquino of TGI Friday's is Micronesia winner of contest

HAGATNA, Guam—Ambros Inc. is proud to announce the Micronesian Winner of the 2013 Stella Artois World Draught Masters Regional Final, held at the Sofitel So Bangkok Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand.

Stella Artois World Draught Masters Competition held last Oct. 22, 2013, featured six countries from the Asia-Pacific region (Micronesia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, and Japan) with three representatives each.

A panel of six experts judged the 18 participants in the two tests prepared: Passion Test and Pour Test. Participants were evaluated based on their responses to the questions given during the Passion Test and their performance and technical precision displayed during the Pour Test, which followed the Stella Artois 9-Step Pouring Ritual

Kathleen Aquino of TGI Friday's Guam was recognized as the Micronesian winner and will serve as our 2014 Stella Artois Ambassador for 2014. She will also be Micronesia's representative in the Stella Artois World Draught Masters Global Competition to be held in May 2014 in Cannes, France.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Kathleen Aquino from TGI Friday's, Jonathan San Nicolas from Proa and Ellen Amar from The Venue represented Micronesia in Bangkok.

Micronesia's other Stella Artois WDM representatives were Jonathan San Nicolas from Proa and Ellen Amar from The Venue. The three participated in a contest last September and were determined as the top three finalists to represent Micronesia in the regional competition.

"The Stella Artois World Masters Draught Finals is a very prestigious competition and Ambros Inc. is very proud of our talented local bartenders who participated and duly represented Micronesia. We look forward to the Stella Artois WDM Global Competition and wish Kathleen Aquino all the best in the upcoming event," said Tom Shimizu, general manager of Ambros Inc.

Stella Artois is imported and locally distributed by Ambros Inc. in Guam and on Saipan. ***(Ambros Inc.)***

Respicio asks Calvo to declare emergency

» Assistance sought to help farmers who lost crops

GUAM—Sen. Rory J. Respicio asked the Guam governor yesterday to declare a state of emergency in order to assist local farmers.

"As you are fully aware, our local farmers have suffered severe losses to their crops as a consequence of recent adverse weather," Respicio stated in his request to Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo. Guam public law "has already established a program for the compensation of farmers for crop damages due to natural disasters such as typhoons, severe rain storms, floods and droughts."

The rules and regulations authorized by 5 GCA Chapter 64A have been in place for many years now, and compensation for crop damages has been dispensed previously under this authority when there has been severe damage to local farms, as in the case of Typhoon Chata'an.

Respicio

"Inasmuch as the mechanism currently exists for meeting the needs of our farmers in coping with the harm to their livelihood resulting from the recent storms, I would like to respectfully request that you declare a state of emergency and exercise your transfer authority in order that the compensation authorized by this statute be issued as quickly as possible to our local farmers," said Respicio.

Respicio is chairman of the Committee on Rules, Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs and Human & Natural Resources & Election Reform. His request to the governor for the state of emergency was sent yesterday. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 30, 2005

3 retirees get over $100K

One government retiree in the CNMI receives $162,000 in pension a year or $6,750 every two weeks, which is more than what most retirees receive in one year. Most retirees receive a minimum of $6,000 a year, or $500 a month. NMI Retirement Fund administrator Karl Reyes declined to identify the highest paid retiree. He also refused to reveal the person's former occupation in the government, citing privacy rights. "The only information I could say is that there's one who is getting $162,000. Yes, I know it's quite high but that's the person's earned benefits," said Reyes in a recent interview.

SSHS defends Build-A-Castle title

Saipan Southern High School has once again come out on top as the "King of Sandcastles" during yesterday's Halloween-themed 3rd Annual Build-A-Castle Save-A-Reef competition at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's beach side. Four SSHS students and an adviser toiled under the scorching heat of the sun and humid afternoon breeze to defend their title in an effort that earned the group $300 cash plus a handcrafted trophy for the school. Second place winner for the high school division was Rota High School while Kagman High School bagged the third place.

October 30, 2006

Crude oil prices not a good indicator of electric fuel rate

Global prices for crude oil are not a very reliable gauge of the electric fuel rate, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Grina Mizutani, CUC deputy director for administration, said that a decline in crude oil prices may indicate that prices for petroleum products such as gasoline or diesel fuel should be lower within a month or so. But the price that CUC pays for diesel fuel is not based on the price of crude oil as it is being traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange. For CUC, the price of diesel fuel, or gas oil 0.5 percent, is based on the monthly arithmetic average price for product in the Singapore market in the month that the fuel supplier takes the fuel delivery.

CUC works for EPA order compliance

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will definitely comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's order directing the utility agency to clean up spilled oil and prevent oil discharges at its Lower Base facility. CUC deputy director Patrick Deleon Guerrero told Saipan Tribune that they will surely follow the EPA order as the agency could not afford to pay the $32,500 a day fine for non-compliance. But Deleon Guerrero pointed out that they have also been working on to ensure they are in compliance because they want to make sure that the environment is also protected.

October 30, 2007

Agency stops sending alien workers to fix CUC engines

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. failed again yesterday to repair one of the big power engines at Power Plant I in Lower Base, even as businessman Felipe Atalig rejected CUC's call to let his long-time alien workers help fix the problem. As a result, Saipan went through another round of rotating outages lasting two hours each. It is not clear yet whether load shedding will also happen today, Tuesday. Atalig, who owns the Casa de Felipe manpower agency, told Saipan Tribune that he turned down CUC's request Sunday to have three of his Filipino workers conduct repair work at the power engine. "It is certainly not fair for Casa workers to be used as a standby, hired on as-needed basis only," Atalig pointed out.

4th armed robbery in 6 days

Two masked men robbed a store in Koblerville last week, bringing to four the number of armed robbery cases that happened within six days on Saipan. The police have yet to issue a report about this incident but sources disclosed that on Sunday night, Oct. 21, two masked men, including one armed with a baseball bat, robbed the Classic Design Mini Mart I in Koblerville. When Saipan Tribune called Classic Design Mini Mart yesterday, the owner confirmed that her store was indeed robbed of cash. The businesswoman said one suspect also smashed the cash register using a baseball bat. The suspects also tried to run off with three cases of Bud Light beer, but abandoned them near a trash can outside the store as police officers arrived.

IT&E encourages community to 'Live Green'

The CNMI's telecommunications leader is taking steps to become the environmental leader with its new "Live Green" campaign.

The IT&E Live Green campaign was started as a joint project undertaken by CNMI and Guam employees earlier this year that focused on finding ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle throughout the company.

After successfully implementing policies and procedures that drastically scaled down the size of IT&E's carbon footprint, the next phase of the project will bring Live Green to the community.

IT&E will post receptacles at retail outlets where customers from any phone company may dispose of their old cell phones. When the receptacles are filled, the items will be picked up from IT&E and shipped to the U.S. mainland for proper disposal.

"As responsible community partners, we are doing this to help our environment and to keep our islands beautiful," said IT&E CNMI managing director Rose Soledad.

The first receptacles will be placed around Saipan and Guam, and CNMI project coordinator Ed Javier said that there may be more in store.

"We would like to include the community in our Live Green campaign. If the project is successful, we may include Rota and Tinian as well," said Javier.

According to Javier, the project is moving along swiftly and the first receptacles are slated to appear in CNMI and Guam stores before the end of the year.

The Live Green concept is an extension of IT&E's tradition of environmental appreciation that includes beach cleanups and its partnership with the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance that supports the sponsorship of the recycling bins at the Oleai Sports Complex as well as sponsoring MINA's largest fund raising event of the year, the Green Gala.

For more information about IT&E, contact IT&E Customer Care at 682-4ITE (4483). ***(IT&E)***

Photo shows the bin in IT&E's Chalan Laulau location. IT&E

GMS students shine in first NJFL competition

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GMS president Mila Merjilla, back row, fourth from left, poses with the coach and winning contestants in the Oct. 19, 2013, NJFL event held at Saipan Southern High School. Back row, left to right, teacher and coach Lisa Espiritu, Natalie Hirshbein, Ian Ranin, Mila Merjilla, Jizelle Maliwat, and assistant principal Bona Angeles. Front row, left to right, Robin Agbayani, Miguel Mallari, Klmvherley Dela Cruz, and Art Vincent Alfeche.

GMS WINNERS

- Natalie Hirshbein, 1st place, Storytelling
- Robin Agbayani, 3rd place, Humorous Interpretation A
- Robin Agbayani, 3rd place, Poetry A
- Natali Hirshbein, 4th place, Dramatic Interpretation
- Miguel Mallari, 4th place, Humorous Interpretation
- Jizelle Maliwat and Ian Ranin, 4th place, Duo Interpretation C
- Kimvherly Dela Cruz and Natalie Hirshbein, 5th place, Duo Interpretation B
- Kimvherly Dela Cruz, 5th place, Prose C

A small group of contestants from Green Meadow School, all 6th graders and participating for the first time in the higher level of forensic competition, is happy with their accomplishments at the recent National Junior Forensic League competition.

According to the Public School System, the event held on Oct. 19, 2013, at Saipan Southern High School was the first of four sets of competitions scheduled for the current school year.

Each contestant must succeed in three qualifying rounds to earn an accumulated number of points that would be considered among the highest to be declared a winner. Aside from the demands of performing successfully within the allotted time, most contestants noted that locating the right room or being on time for the next performance were challenges they had to overcome during the competition.

For GMS 6th graders, the NJFL competition was a great challenge resulting in great accomplishments. The school management, staff, faculty, parents, students and supporters congratulate all GMS NJFL winners and their hardworking coach, Lorelisa Espiritu. ***(GMS)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2011-004 (A – F)

"GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OF NMHC'S PROPERTIES (LISTING A-F) IN SAIPAN"

Bid packets will be available on Monday, October 21, 2013, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **9:00 a.m.** on **Monday, October 28, 2013,** at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Section 8 Multi-Family Account.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Western Pacific Aquaculture Co., Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

Shrimp Hatchery Supervisor

Job duties: Planning and production of at least 500,000 shrimp larvae every month. Work involves shrimp broodstock selection, maturation and conditioning, breeding and larval rearing. The supervisor is also in charge in the scheduling and delegation of work to aquaculture farmers.

Job requirements: At least 2 years experience in actual L. vannamei hatchery operations. A degree in aquaculture or related field an advantage. Willing to be on call 24 hours. Good in oral and written communication and should be literate in MS Word and Excel spreadsheets.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at the Western Pacific Aquaculture Co., Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, November 04, 2013.

Western Pacific Aquaculture Co., Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian & Aguiguan

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, October 31, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference room.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
II. **Public Comments**[1]
III. **Reports**
   a. Chair's Report
   b. Executive Director's Report
IV. **New Business**
   a. Ratification of Comments to TLB No. 18-27
   b. Approval of Announcement of Inspector Vacancies
   c. Casino Service Industry License Applications
   d. Casino Employee License Applications
   e. Salary of Executive Director
V. **Executive Session**[2]
VI. **Miscellaneous/Administrative Matters**
VII. **Adjournment**

[1]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
[2]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments

Robert Tenorio Torres
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Plata Drive. Chalan Kiya
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Saipan. MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Henry H. San Nicolas

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:	)	**Civil Action No. 13-0188**
JOSE P. SAN NICOLAS	)	**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**
Deceased.	)	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the late Jose P. San Nicolas, or his estate that they are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court, CNMI, within sixty (60) days of this publication, or the claim(s) will be forever barred if not filed within the 60-day deadline. A copy of your claim should be sent to the estate's administrator Henry H. San Nicolas, through his counsel, **Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney At Law, at Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. BOX 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.**

Dated this 28th day of October 2013.

PATRICK DIAZ
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

POI Aviation invites qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accounting Manager (1)
Bachelor's degree in Financial Management/Accounting with 5 years of progressive experience in accounting. Airline industry experience preferred.

Administrative Services Officer (1)
Preferably a college graduate with 2 years experience as a Secretary or related line of work. Airline industry experience preferred.

Aircraft Maintenance Technician (4)
Graduate of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering program with 2 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Must possess current US FAA A&P license.

Aircraft Maintenance Technician (4)
Graduate of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering program with 2 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Must possess current US FAA A&P equivalent foreign license.

Ground Support Equipment Mechanic (4)
Diploma for technical / vocational course on automotive / diesel engines with minimum of 2 years experience in repair and overhaul of gas and diesel engines for automobiles and other specialized motorized equipment.

Ground Support Equipment Mechanic Supervisor (1)
Diploma from technical / vocational course on automobile gas / diesel engines with minimum 4 years experience in electrical, electronic, pneumatic, hydraulic system and gas / diesel engine maintenance. Minimum 2 years supervisory experience.

Lead Aircraft Maintenance Technician (1)
Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering graduate with 4 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Must possess current US FAA A&P license.

Lead Aircraft Service Agent (1)
High school diploma or its equivalent with 4 years experience in aircraft exterior and interior cleaning.

Lead Passenger Service Agent (3)
High school diploma or its equivalent with 4 years experience in passenger service or related field of work.

Lead Ramp Agent (2)
High school diploma or its equivalent with 4 years experience in ramp cargo loading and unloading operations.

Load Planning Specialist (1)
Associates degree with 2 years of aircraft ramp operation experience. Must possess specific airline load planner certification.

Passenger Service Manager (1)
Associates degree with 8 years of progressive airline passenger service experience and 3 years in supervisory capacity.

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 4, 2013

Applications for Employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the POI Aviation Building on International Terminal LP, Saipan International Airport.

Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 216

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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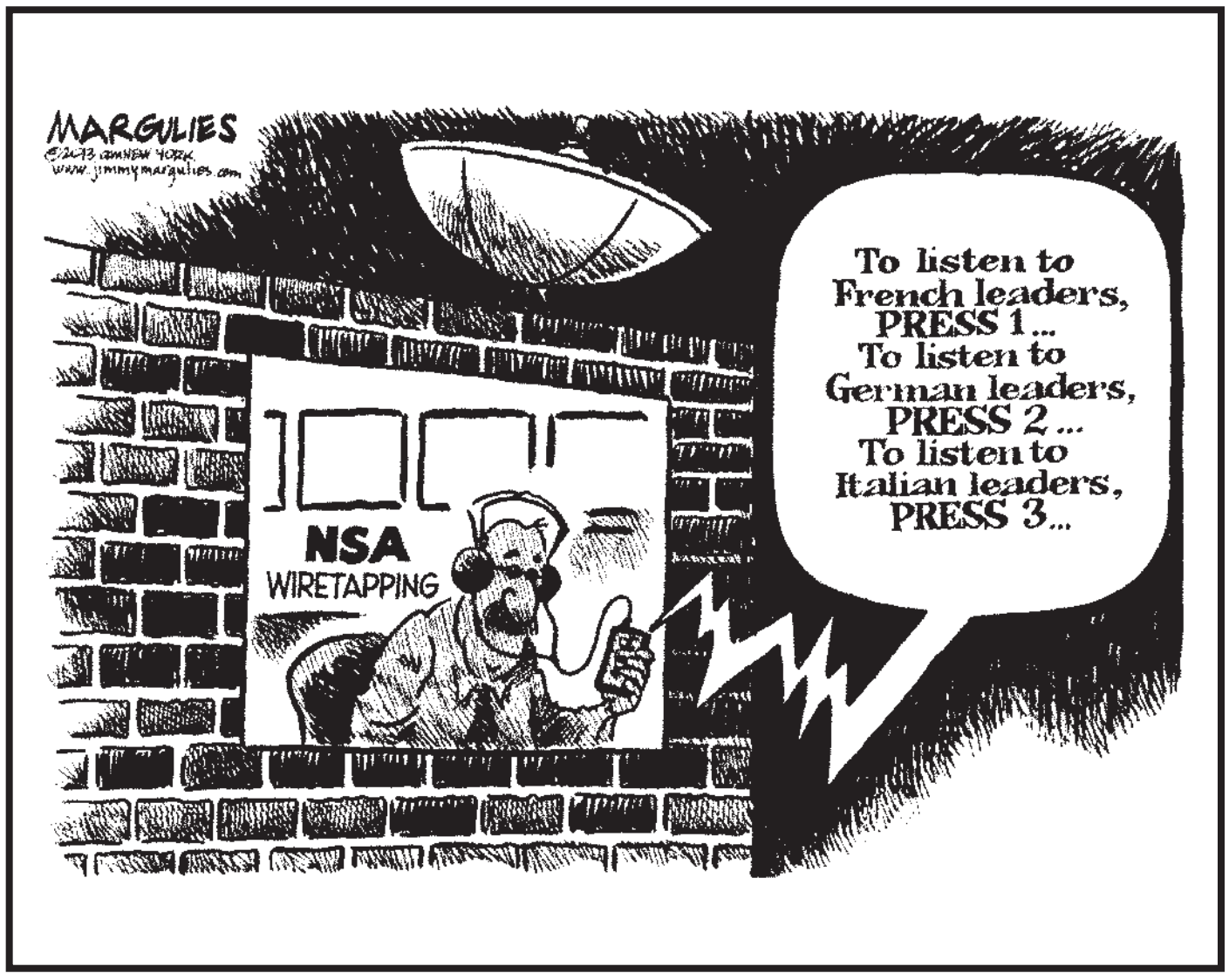


EDITORIAL

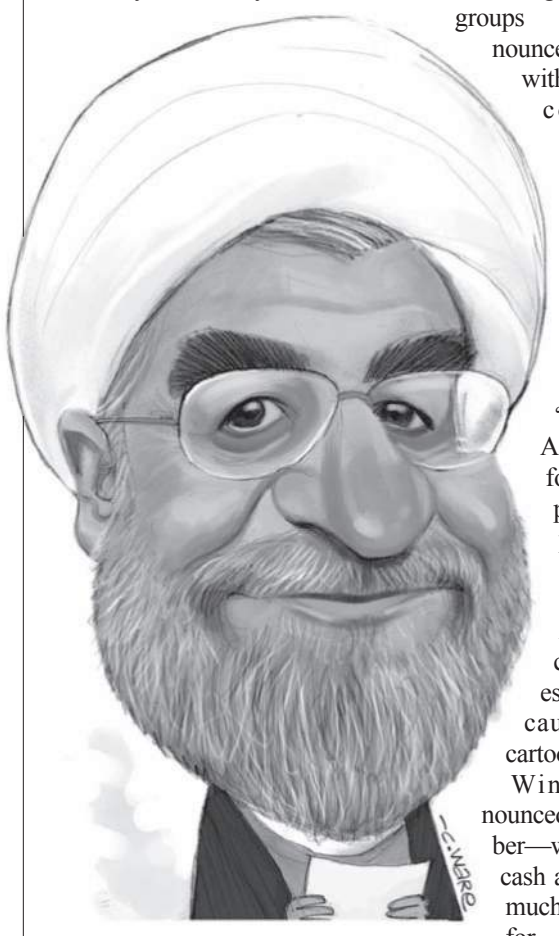
Death to 'Death to America'?

Memo to: Iran President Hassan Rouhani
Re: "Death to America"
Mr. Rouhani:

Since your election, some in the American bloviati have ventured onto a shaky limb, speculating that you'll steer Iran away from its rogue nuclear program and toward a deal with the U.S. and its allies. We're skeptical of that. But we did perk up when you said: "We can stand against powers with prudence rather than with slogans."

Most people interpreted that as a dig against the most revered slogan in Iran: "Death to America!" This has rung through Iranian streets since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. "These three words are the blood of our ideology," one Iranian explained to The New York Times.

Your suggestion that Iranians give DTA a rest has provoked some of your countrymen: In defense of the slogan, hard-line groups have announced a "Down with U.S.A." conference next month, the Times reports. The highlight: "The First Major International Award of 'Down With America'" for the best photograph, poster, video, song or caricature. Among the contest judges: a Holocaust-denying cartoonist.



Winners—announced in December—will reap cash awards of as much as $4,000 for injecting some new venom into the vituperation of America and its allies.

Sounds like you hit a nerve there, Mr. Rouhani. But we think you should stick to your rethink-DTA campaign.

Chants are powerful. Think of the anti-Vietnam war classic, "Hell no, we won't go." Or this from protesters on the streets outside the 1968 Democratic convention in Chicago: "The whole world is watching." Those perfectly captured the combative mood of the moment, just as "Death to America" did in Ayatollah Khomeini's American-hostage-taking 1979 Tehran.

But any advertising guru will tell you that a slogan is bound to wear thin after three decades. People grow tired of hollering the same rallying cry, particularly when, as in your country's case, hard-liners are making it mandatory to shout "Death to America" at every public gathering. Sounds a little ... desperate to us.

We also hear your government wants to conduct a new public opinion survey on whether people support an outreach to the

See DEATH on Next Page

Social media: It's so 1st century BC

By TOM STANDAGE
Los Angeles Times

Tom Standage is digital editor of the Economist *and the author of the newly published* Writing on the Wall: Social Media—The First 2,000 Years. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

Today it's easy to assume that social media platforms are a recent development, a phenomenon unique to the Internet age. But the exchange of media along social networks of friends and acquaintances is in fact much older than Facebook, Twitter or MySpace.

Consider the situation in the late Roman republic, in the 1st century BC. At the time there were no printing presses and no paper. Instead, information circulated among the intermarried families of the Roman elite through the exchange of papyrus rolls. The correspondence of the Roman statesman Marcus Tullius Cicero, the best preserved collection of letters from the period, shows that he and his friends wrote to one another constantly, recounting the latest political machinations, passing on items of interest from others and providing commentary and opinion.

"I sent you on March 24th a copy of Balbus' letter to me and of Caesar's letter to him," Cicero wrote to a friend in one typical example. Letters were commonly copied, shared and quoted in other letters. Some missives were addressed to several people and were intended to be read aloud or posted in public. When Cicero or another politician made a noteworthy speech, he would distribute it by making copies available to his associates, who would read it and pass it on to others. Many more people might then read the speech than had heard it being delivered in person.

Books circulated in a similar way, as sets of papyrus rolls passed from one reader to the next. Anyone who wished to retain a copy of a speech or book would have it copied by scribes before passing it on. People in Rome also sent their friends excerpts from the state gazette, a bulletin posted in the Forum each day containing official announcements and summaries of political debates.

With information flitting from one person to another, this informal system enabled information to reach the farthest corners of the Roman world within a few weeks. News from Rome took about five weeks to reach Britain in the west and seven weeks to reach Syria in the east. Merchants, soldiers and officials in distant parts would circulate information from the heart of the republic within their own social circles, sharing extracts from letters, speeches or the state gazette with their friends and passing news and rumors from the frontier back to their contacts in Rome.

This was a world in which people gathered, filtered and distributed information for their friends. It was, in short, a social media system.

This is just one of many historical antecedents of today's social media. Other notable examples include the circulation of letters and other documents in the early Christian church; the torrent of printed tracts that circulated in 16th century Germany at the start of the Reformation; the exchange and copying of gossip-laden poetry in the Tudor and Stuart courts; the political pamphlets of the English civil war; the stream of news sheets and pamphlets that coursed through Enlightenment coffeehouses; the journals and correspondence societies that enabled far-flung scientists to discuss and build on one another's work; the pamphlets and local papers that rallied support for American independence; and the handwritten poems and newsletters of pre-Revolutionary France, which spread rumor and gossip within Paris and beyond.

For most of history, in fact, media was social. The emergence of centralized mass media such as newspapers, radio and television is a very recent phenomenon, and is arguably a historical anomaly. Today we like to draw a distinction between "new" media based on digital technologies and the "old" media that came before it. But the centralized, impersonal distribution systems of old media only emerged in the mid-1800s, and the situation before then—what could be termed the era of "really old media"—has many similarities with today's media environment. In many respects, the emergence of Internet-based social media in recent years is therefore a return to the way things used to be.

These similarities can be instructive because it turns out that ancient forms of social media prompted many of the same questions that Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and the rest have raised today. Do new forms of social media lead to a trivialization and coarsening of public discourse, for example? How should those in authority respond when they face criticism in social media? To what extent can social media help bring about political change? Is it all just a distracting waste of time?

Examining the impact of social media systems that arose in centuries past can help us answer these questions and put today's worries in perspective. At the same time, our modern experience of social media enables us to see the past with new eyes. The deepest lesson is that when you send a tweet or share a link on Facebook, you are continuing a deep and rich tradition of person-to-person sharing that goes back to Roman times, more than 2,000 years ago. Social media does not simply link us to each other today—it also links us to the past.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Attracting foreign investments

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

While we have a "free trade zone" recently signed into law, the central government of Japan approved a "Special Zone" for Asian Headquarters. It's a major shift to lure more than 500 of the region's largest investors to make Japan their home or headquarters.

In 2010, the central government created two special zone systems as part of an economic growth strategy, according to a story in the *Japan Times*. "One of the zones is aimed at increasing Japan's international competitiveness, and the other at revitalizing local economies.

"Foreign firms that set up regional headquarters or research and development centers within the zone will see their effective corporate tax rate drop from 38.0 percent to 28.9 percent.

"The rate will decline further, to 26.9 percent, from April 2015, when extraordinary taxes to finance the reconstruction of the Tohoku region expire.

"Such companies are also eligible to receive up to ¥5 million in subsidies to cover fees, including costs related to hiring and obtaining residency status for their employees.

"Furthermore, any of the foreign companies can take advantage of Business Development Center Tokyo, a special organization set up just for the zone participants that offers assistance in English to make the transition to working in Japan easier.

"All industries are welcome, but the metro government is placing priority on information technology, chemicals, precision instruments, and aviation.

"The medical field has potential, as Japan is the second-largest market after the United States." "The field of content creation such as animation and game software is another possibility" given the government's "Cool Japan" campaign.

"Tokyo is being left behind by such powerhouses as Singapore and Hong Kong in terms of taxes, financial aid, and amenities.

"For example, the corporate tax rates of Hong Kong and Singapore are only 16.5 and 17 percent, respectively. Tokyo needs to offer more tax breaks and subsidies to lure foreign firms."

Perhaps it is fitting to extricate or even repeal our so-called "free trade zone" "nice try" law for it is only suspiciously as good as dead fish in the water. It lacks foresight and substantive content to be of any use at all. It's good if, and only if, the NMI is a sovereign government.

What could we offer substantive global firms by way of tax cuts, loans to lure them into making designated areas their permanent headquarters and what exactly is the goal of content we are after? Is it in R&D, assembly type factories, or just what's the goal other than the usual scattershot paradigm often spouted solely for political mileage? *Dalai 'ste!*

Tradition: All Saints Day

Graveyards of loved ones across NMI become the center of unity on All Saints Day. Weeks before the ceremony, family members pitch in to clean and spruce up graves for the solemn ceremony at 5pm on this special occasion.

Siblings pitch in to buy wreaths and candles, place them an hour before the event while exchanging felicitations at graveyards before the rosary and Mass.

It's the unintended venue to reestablish a sense of humility, gratitude, harmony, love, respect, and care for one another right at the graves of our parents who taught us these virtues a long, long time ago. Their graveyards become the permanent venue for renewal of familial unity and love. It is even spiritual in the sense that we go there to pray for our loved ones on this day.

For many years my siblings and I would kneel at our father's grave on All Saints Day. When we walk home after the ceremony at dusk, we'd talk about the "what might have been" had dad lived. It certainly triggers the imagination with a quick journey into stories we've been told about him. He was tall, large, and intelligent with a grand sense of humor. But he left six days before I turned 5. I couldn't answer anything else after this juncture other than to submit that perhaps his death happened for a reason.

The CK cemetery is the resting place of people we've come to know during our formative years. Each played a role in guarding and instilling that grand sense of community in the old village. Most of the elderly I've met were people with wisdom who guided our growth to walk the path of the industrious ant over the happy-go-lucky grasshopper. They held the torch of traditional leadership, building upon "Our Ways". It's now our turn to carry the traditional torch.

After the ceremony, the entire place glows under the dark blue heavens of paradise. Occasionally, we'd be lucky when a full moon rises out east and adds to the peaceful ambiance. It's a powerful glow that lights up the evening skies.

But no matter the beautiful glow from a distance, it doesn't pacify the imagination of young people conjuring ghost stories on the way home. Well, in my book it remains the center of siblings gathering once a year to celebrate loved ones who have gone upstairs to claim their trophies in that gold mine in the sky.

***

If anything, we draw a sense of humility, spirituality and familial unity in the hourlong visit to graveyards of people we knew all our lives. I could still hear their voices in graceful laughter, prayers, music, and timely words of wisdom. What a difference they've made in making each of us better people.

I still could hear my grandpa's deep voice at break of dawn on Sundays for his cup of coffee before we walk to San Jose Church. My mom's familiar admonition on Christmas Eve that we wake up and prepare for what's traditionally known as the Misan Gayu or Christmas Eve Mass. I still vividly remember other elderly in our community who have patiently guided us through thick and thin with commitment. What a journey! Our prayers!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Your own political agenda

Editor's Note: Due to the length of this letter, it is being published in three parts.

Dear Delegate Gregorio C. Sablan: This letter would not have been written had it not been for your persistent and aggressive determination in pushing congressional support for Section 2109 of S. 744 and HR. 15 to "improve immigration status and a pathway to citizenship" for approximately 14,000 or more aliens living in the Commonwealth. You did this without providing us, Chamorros and Carolinians, the opportunity to openly express our collective views. Such controversial issue as this will incontrovertibly pit our small community against one another. As recently as January this year, our people were subjected to one of the most divisive and polarizing events we have seen in recent memory, the "political" impeachment of a sitting executive of our government. No matter which side of the political divide you stand on, the entire community was placed in a dreadful position not of their making, but regrettably became victims of certain group's "disguised motives."

Delegate Sablan, there was an inherent and intrinsic reason why 78.8 percent of indigenous people voted in favor of ratifying the Covenant on June 17, 1975. Their votes represented an unyielding desire to advance and promote, through their elected representatives, their *own* cultural, social, educational, political, and economic self-interests and not the interests of other social or cultural groups. This was not a hidden desire; it was clearly spelled out in our people's petition through the United Nations Security Council in our quest for political self-determination. Conversely, advancing *your own political agenda* through improved immigration status with pathway to citizenship will definitely cause great trepidation within the Chamorro and Carolinian community. Clearly and quite frankly, the average Chamorro and Carolinian does not have the most basic understanding of the probable gross adverse impact *your* political agenda will have upon their lives and especially that of their children.

Delegate Sablan, you, of all elected officials, should have known the prodigious ramifications *your* political agenda will have on our small community. Yet you continue to push this venomous matter, notwithstanding the fact that it will indisputably fragmentize and destroy the "cultural authenticity" of the Chamorro and Carolinian people, which were intrinsically part of our total life experiences. The Chamorro and Carolinian cultural systems create genuine, authentic worlds that we experience as "real." If this reality is infringed upon by force or imposition, it is a certainty that our cultural survival is on the way to major transformation or total collapse. No cultural groups should allow this to happen or willingly acquiesce to their eventual demise. We cannot sit in silent acquiescence to your prescribed argument that granting improved immigration status and a pathway to citizenship for thousands of foreign aliens in the Commonwealth is in our best cultural, social, economic, and political interests. On the contrary, our indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people will undeniably suffer irreparable harm as a result of *your* contemptible political agenda and will further engender infinitely more destructive consequences. Your repeated "merry-go-round" justification of preventing family members from being separated from each other was an argument used and advanced by members of the U.S. Democratic Party. This argument may very well fit the United States immigration mess but their prescribed solution of "one-size-fits-all" may not necessarily be palatable to our local conditions and circumstances. Be careful when you copy U.S. political jargon for it only makes you look and sound unnatural and factitious. Besides, the "one-size-fits-all" U.S. immigration prescription can't fit into the local immigration "chopsuey menu" because ours is different. We tolerated your constant politicking on nonlife-threatening issues; however, your proposed political agenda, in a relatively short time, will wipe away the "living history" of indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people.

Delegate Sablan, history has repeatedly taught us valuable lessons regarding representation and governance because it is full of anecdotal accounts of what happen to communities when unwanted ideas, issues, circumstances, and decisions are indiscriminately forced upon them by their leaders against their consent. In all of these cases, the affected citizens rebel against their political leaders and, in some communities, loss of innocent lives becomes part of the struggles for self-preservation. You cannot represent two opposite interests from two or more different cultural groups without inflicting injury to one of the parties. That is why the Chamorro and Carolinian are protesting *your* political agenda because we will be permanently disenfranchised from our traditional practices and cultural beliefs, and the uniqueness of our culture, traditions, customs, language characteristics, and social institutions will translucently be subjected to supplantation that can never be restored. The distinctiveness of our language and culture will suffer similar divergent transformational experiences as the Fijian and the native Hawaiians. It would be a total "manifestation of injustice" for a public representative to conspire in the cultural, social and political displacement of his/her own people, in their own homeland, for his/her own political aggrandizement. I am forced to wonder and this question needs to be asked: What makes you want to inflict such injurious and catastrophic cultural destruction to your own people? The late civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "You can have no influence over those for whom you have underlying contempt."

To be continued.

Daniel O. Quitugua
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

DEATH

From Page 10

United States. You might want to tread carefully there. Despite all the ritual screaming of anti-American slogans, many Iranians favor establishing ties with the United States. In 2002, Iranian pollsters asked citizens if they favored a dialogue with the United States as a prelude to possibly re-establishing diplomatic relations. Two-thirds said yes. Did the ruling mullahs listen? Not exactly. They shuttered a polling institute and arrested three pollsters for espionage and threatening national security.

Still, we're confident that you and your fellow citizens can find an appropriate substitute for "Death to America."

In 2009, Iranians flooded the streets to protest the iron-fisted mullahs who stole the presidential election for your Holocaust-denying predecessor, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. For many days and nights, the cry of "death to the dictator" rang out. Sounds good to us.

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The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°

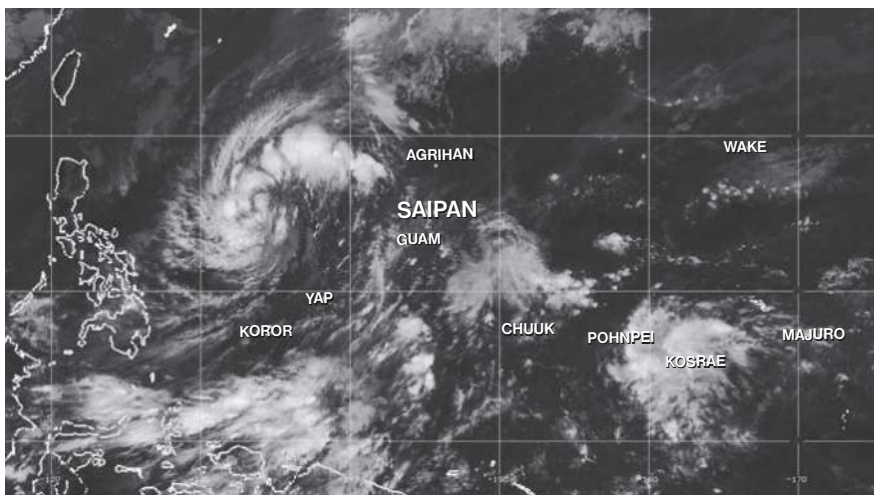
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼74
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼59
Beijing	Sunny	▲62	▼39
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲84	▼74
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼71
London	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼54
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼51
Manila	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼45
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼73
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼43
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼43
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼43
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼55
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼58
Salem	Sunny	▲58	▼36
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼50
Seoul	Sunny	▲62	▼42
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼54
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼51

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Newly-formed tropical depression (TD) 29W located 720 miles west of the Marianas is centered near 15N134E and moving west-northwest at 17 mph with maximum sustained winds of 30 mph. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are located from 12N to 18N between 131E and 136E and along a band from 17N to 20N between 136E and 142. For more information on TD 29W, refer to bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Scattered showers are located to the north of TD 29W from 20N to north of 25N between 135E and 145E. Southeast of Guam a westward moving trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from 10N to 13N between 147E and 155E. Farther east, a weak low pressure area between Pohnpei and Kosrae is causing scattered showers and thunderstorms from 2N to 8N between 159E and 165E. Finally, the scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms located south of Koror and Yap south of 5N and west of 142E is located with the monsoon convergence flow.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:56 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
11:07 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
5:37 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:12 AM	5:49 PM
Thursday	6:13 AM	5:48 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:13 AM	5:48 PM
Sunday	6:14 AM	5:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:05 AM	2:35 PM
Thursday	2:55 AM	3:16 PM
Friday	3:47 AM	3:59 PM
Saturday	4:41 AM	4:44 PM
Sunday	5:38 AM	5:33 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 27, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)			
DL287	6:05am	11:30pm	2, 6 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
D2102	2:20am	5:50am	3
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
D2104	2:00pm	5:30pm	6
OZ6063	3:30am	7:20am	4, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:10pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5074/PR111	11:20am	4:45pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:10am	10:45am	6
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
D2101	8:30am	2:00pm	3
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
D2103	7:30pm	1:00am+1	6
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	9:10pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
PR110/UA5072	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	7:40am	12:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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Business

Lexus and Toyota top latest auto reliability survey

DETROIT (AP)—Japan's lock on Consumer Reports' vehicle reliability rankings is starting to ease.

Three Japanese brands—Lexus, Toyota and Acura—took the top spots in this year's survey, and seven of the top 10 brands are Japanese.

But three non-Japanese brands—Audi, Volvo and GMC—cracked the top 10. And the magazine announced Monday it's not recommending that consumers buy 2014 models of the Honda Accord V6 and Nissan Altima sedans, two of Japan's top sellers, because of poor reliability scores. Two other Japanese mainstays, the Toyota Camry and Toyota RAV4, won't be recommended because they flunked a frontal crash test from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

That's a blow that could impact sales. Consumer Reports' recommendations are frequently cited among the top reasons people buy particular cars and trucks.

Yonkers, N.Y.-based Consumer Reports predicts the reliability of 2014 model year cars and trucks based on a survey of subscribers who own vehicles from current or prior model years. This year, the survey questioned the owners of 1.1 million vehicles.

Problems with infotainment systems, from frozen touch screens to poorly performing voice-operated navigation systems, were frequent complaints. Jake Fisher, Consumer Reports' automotive testing director, said electronic problems may even be underreported, since some drivers find the systems so confusing they don't use them. German cars tended to have the best infotainment systems.

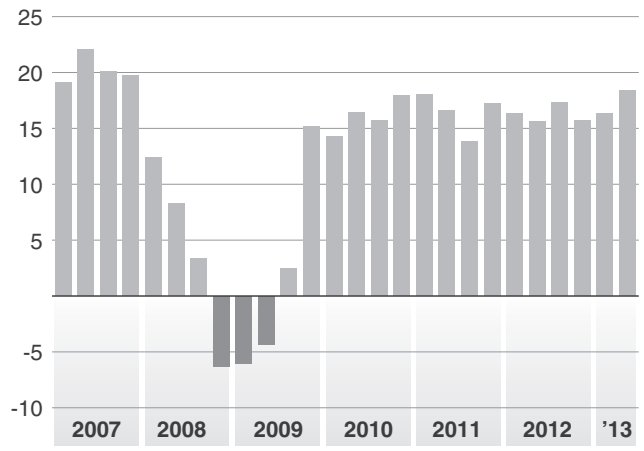
This undated image made available by Audi shows the 2014 Audi Q5 TDI. AP

E-commerce ramps up

For the first time in 15 years, the Internet is the top holiday shopping destination, according to Deloitte's annual survey. Nearly half of consumers said they plan to purchase items online, followed by 44 percent at discount/value stores, such as Wal-Mart and Target. But much of that online spending will be with those same brick-and-mortar chains. After No. 1 Amazon.com, the top 20 online retailers include Staples, Apple, Wal-Mart, Sears, Office Depot, Best Buy, Office Max, Macy's, Costco, Target and Gap.

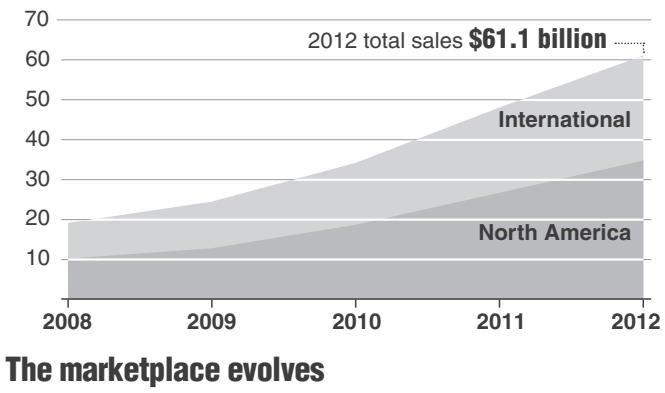
Online shopping gains

U.S. e-commerce sales growth rates remain strong; the government will report the third quarter on Nov. 16; percentage change from previous year



Amazon.com's the one to beat

Amazon's total sales, in billions



The marketplace evolves

Habits are changing fast; shoppers are leading retailers down new paths

- **35%** of smartphone owners used the device to find a store
- **24%** used it to find coupons
- **19%** used it to look up product availability
- **54%** of Target shoppers used at least one mobile app while shopping in the store
- **38%** of Wal-Mart shoppers did the same

Source: Deloitte, Internet Retailer Top 500 Guide, Forrester Research, comScore Inc., The Partnering Group, Parks Associates, Shop.org
Graphic: Maria Halkias, Troy Oxford, The Dallas Morning News © 2013 MCT

Top performing models in Consumer Reports survey

Consumer Reports released its annual vehicle reliability survey Monday. The magazine predicts the reliability of 2014 model-year cars and trucks based on a survey of readers who own 1.1 million vehicles from the 2011 through 2013 model years.

Here are the top three models in each category.

SUBCOMPACT CARS	Honda Fit	Hyundai Accent	Mazda2
SMALL CARS	Scion xB	Dodge Dart	Subaru Impreza
MIDSIZE CARS	Subaru Legacy	Toyota Camry	Mazda6
COUPES	Mercedes-Benz E-Class	Infiniti G	Audi A5
LARGE CARS	Lexus ES	Acura TL	Toyota Avalon
SPORTS CARS	Porsche Boxster	BMW M3	BMW 1 Series
HYBRID/ELECTRIC CARS	Toyota Prius	Lexus ES 300h	Toyota Prius C
LUXURY SMALL CARS	Infiniti G37 (AWD)	Infiniti G37 (RWD)	Acura TSX (4-cylinder engine)
LUXURY SEDANS	Audi A6	Lexus LS	Audi A7
WAGONS	Mazda5	Toyota Venza	Audi Allroad
MINIVANS	Toyota Sienna (FWD)	Nissan Quest	Toyota Sienna (AWD)
SMALL SUVs	Subaru Forester (non-turbo)	Mitsubishi Outlander Sport	Toyota RAV4
MIDSIZE SUVs	Toyota 4Runner	Toyota Highlander (V6)	Toyota Highlander (4-cylinder engine)
LARGE SUVs	Toyota Sequoia	Chevrolet Tahoe	Chevrolet Yukon
LUXURY SMALL SUVs	BMW X1 (4-cylinder engine)	Infiniti EX	Audi Q5 (V6)
LUXURY SUVs	Lexus RX	Lexus RX hybrid	Audi Q7
SMALL PICKUPS	Honda Ridgeline	Nissan Frontier	Toyota Tacoma (4-cylinder, FWD)
LARGE PICKUPS	Toyota Tundra (V8, 2-wheel-drive)	Toyota Tundra (V8, 4-wheel-drive)	Ford F-150 (V6)

Source: Consumer Reports

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
15,568.93	1,762.11	3,940.13
1.35	2.34	3.23
-0.01%	+0.13%	-0.08%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0514	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7534	Philippine Peso	43.09
British Pound	0.6208	Indian Rupee	61.49	Singapore Dollar	1.238
Canadian Dollar	1.044	Indonesian Rupiah	11105	South Korean Won	1061.1
Chinese Yuan	6.0904	Japanese Yen	97.545	Swiss Franc	0.8954
Euro	0.7256	Malaysian Ringgit	3.143	Taiwan Dollar	29.415
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2086	Thailand Baht	31.055

Nation

Immigration bill's fate murky on eve of lobbying

WASHINGTON (AP)—Prospects for comprehensive immigration legislation this year grew murkier on the eve of an all-out push by a coalition of business, religious and law enforcement to convince the House to overhaul the decades-old system.

Proponents seized on two developments as a Senate-passed measure remains stalled in the House—President Barack Obama's meeting at the White House on Tuesday with a House Republican working on legislation and a California GOP lawmaker's willingness to back a House Democratic plan.

But in a blow to their effort, Sen. Marco Rubio signaled support for the piecemeal approach in the House despite his months of work and vote for the comprehensive Senate bill that would provide a path to citizenship for the 11 million immigrants living here illegally and tighten border security.

The Florida Republican—son of Cuban immigrants and a potential presidential candidate in 2016—had provided crucial support for the bipartisan Senate bill.

"Sen. Rubio has always preferred solving immigration reform with piecemeal legislation. The Senate opted to pursue a comprehensive bill, and he joined that effort because he wanted to influence the policy that passed the Senate," Rubio's spokesman, Alex Conant, said Monday in explaining Rubio's backing for limited measures.

AP

This Sept. 12, 2013, file photo shows women linking their arms and sitting in a circle to block the intersection outside the House of Representatives on Capitol Hill in Washington during a demonstration to protest Congress' inaction on comprehensive and inclusive immigration reform.

Since 68 Democrats and Republicans joined together to pass the Senate bill in June, opponents and many conservatives have stepped up their pressure against any immigration legislation, based not only on their principle opposition but their unwillingness to deliver on Obama's top second-term domestic agenda issue.

The recent budget fight only inflamed conservative GOP feelings toward Obama.

Obama on Monday reiterated his call for Congress to complete action on an immigration overhaul before the end of the year. He said that represented the only way to end the record deportations of immigrants undertaken by his administration, actions he has tried to curtail by allowing young people who immigrated illegally into the United States—so-called Dreamers—to remain in the country under certain conditions.

"That's why my top priority has been let's make sure that we comprehensively reform the whole system so that we're not just dealing with Dreamers, we're also dealing with anybody who's here and is undocumented," he said in an interview with Fusion, a cable channel that is a collaboration of ABC News and Univision.

Most House Republicans reject a comprehensive approach and many question offering citizenship to people who broke U.S. immigration laws to be in this country. The House Judiciary Committee has moved forward with individual, single-issue immigration bills.

Although House Republican leaders say they want to solve the issue, which has become a political drag for the GOP, many rank-and-file House Republicans have shown little inclination to deal with it. With just a few legislative weeks left in the House, it's unclear whether lawmakers will vote on any measure before the year is out.

Among the exceptions are Republican Reps. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida and Darrell Issa of California, who have been working on possible legislation.

Diaz-Balart has said his bill would help those immigrants here illegally to "get right with the law," purposely avoiding the word legalization that he said is interpreted differently in the fierce debate over immigration. Diaz-Balart had been slated to meet with the president on Tuesday, but the meeting was canceled and could be rescheduled, the lawmaker's office said late Monday.

The congressman mentioned the session in an interview with Florida radio station WGCU and his office confirmed the meeting.

Determined to rally support, outside groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Bibles, Badges & Business for Immigration Reform are descending on the Capitol Tuesday to lobby lawmakers to vote this year on immigration legislation.

Among those arriving in Washington on Monday was David Gaither, a former Republican state senator from Minnesota who served as chief of staff to former Gov. Tim Pawlenty. Gaither planned to meet with members of the Minnesota congressional delegation on Tuesday and deliver a simple message on immigration: Just fix it.

He said Monday that they will push for a comprehensive bill but were willing to accept piecemeal changes. The bottom line to lawmakers was "put service over self," Gaither said.

Randy Johnson, senior vice president of the Chamber, told reporters on a conference call Monday that the effort is "about moving votes on the Hill in the right direction."

Johnson said he was hopeful that the House could pass one or two of the single-issue bills before the end of the year, and left open the possibility of action early next year—an election year.

White House OKs limited waiver on health penalty

WASHINGTON (AP)—With website woes ongoing, the Obama administration Monday granted a six-week extension until March 31 for Americans to sign up for coverage next year and avoid new tax penalties under the president's health care overhaul law.

The move had been expected since White House spokesman Jay Carney promised quick action last week to resolve a "disconnect" in the implementation of the law.

It comes as technical problems continue to trouble the website designed as the main enrollment portal for people who don't get health care at work.

As a consequence, Republican lawmakers, and some Democrats as well, are calling for a one-year delay in the penalties most Americans will face starting next year if they remain uninsured. Monday's action by the administration stops well short of that, and amounts only to a limited adjustment.

Under the latest policy change, people who sign up by the end of open enrollment season on March 31 will not face a penalty. That means procrastinators get a grace period.

Previously you had to sign up by the middle of February, guaranteeing that your coverage would take effect March 1, in order to avoid fines for being uninsured.

The extension—granted for 2014 only—addresses confusion that was created when the administration set the first open enrollment period under the law from Oct. 1-March 31.

The problem was that health insurance coverage typically starts on the first day of a given month, and it takes up to 15 days to process applications. So somebody signing up March 16—well within the open enrollment period—wouldn't get coverage until April 1, thereby risking a penalty for being uninsured part of the year.

The administration "has determined that it would be unfair to require individuals in this situation to make a (penalty) payment," the Health and Human Services department said in guidance issued Monday evening. As a result, the department is creating a special one-time hardship exemption for people who get covered by March 31. And they won't have to file additional paperwork to apply for the exemption.

The mandate to carry health insurance is the most unpopular requirement of the health care law. It's meant to nudge as many people as possible into the insurance pool. That would help keep premiums in check, since the law also forbids insurers from turning away people with health problems.

Mindful of the need to sign up lots of healthy uninsured people, the administration released an analysis Monday that concludes nearly half of uninsured single young adults could buy a "bronze" level plan for $50 or less a month, after tax credits to offset the cost of premiums.

The inconsistency between the law's coverage requirements and the administration's schedule for the initial open enrollment season was first pointed out by the Jackson Hewitt tax preparation company.

Woman's upper body found at LA County sewage plant

BASSETT, Calif. (AP)—The upper half of a woman's body was found Monday at a Los Angeles County sewage plant and investigators believe her lower half turned up two days earlier at another plant some 30 miles away, authorities said.

The woman's body may have slipped into the wastewater processing system through a manhole or sewer line in the San Gabriel Valley east of downtown Los Angeles and been mangled by a pump before wastewater was distributed to processing centers, sheriff's Lt. Mike Rosson said.

One of the woman's arms was still missing.

Rosson said workers checking a plugged line found the woman's head and upper torso at the plant in unincorporated Bassett, about 20 miles east of downtown Los Angeles, KNBC-TV reported.

"Anything that comes into this water plant must move through a 17-inch line before going through a centrifugal pump," Rosson said. "So you can imagine what kind of damage to a person's body would happen."

On Saturday, a woman's foot, both legs and pelvis were found at a plant in Carson. In each case, the remains were found in bins that hold debris separated from sewage wastewater, authorities said.

The plants are connected by sewer lines and investigators believe the remains are from the same person, Rosson said.

County coroner's officials will try to determine the woman's identity and what killed her, but Rosson said the death was being investigated as a homicide rather than an accident.

"People don't just fall into a manhole cover," he said at a news conference.

ACROSS THE NATION

US weighs end to spying on leaders

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration is considering ending spying on allied heads of state, a senior administration official said, as the White House grappled with the fallout from revelations that the U.S. has eavesdropped on German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The official said late Monday that a final decision had not been made and an internal review was still underway. The revelations about National Security Agency monitoring of Merkel were the latest in a months-long spying scandal that has strained longstanding alliances with some of America's closest partners. Earlier Monday, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, called for a "total review of all intelligence programs."

Fla police: Cellphone stops bullet fired by robber

WINTER GARDEN, Fla. (AP)—Police say a cellphone saved a Florida gas station clerk from a robber's bullet. Winter Garden Police said in an email that a clerk had just minor injuries after a robber fired a bullet at his abdomen. Police say his cellphone stopped it. The close call happened Monday at 4:45 a.m. in Winter Garden, a suburb of Orlando. A man entered the gas station and asked a clerk for help. Then he showed the worker a revolver and demanded he open the safe. When the clerk couldn't open the safe, the robber ordered a second clerk to try. He was also unsuccessful. The suspect fired a round at one of the clerks and fled.

Fed judge: Texas abortion limits unconstitutional

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—A federal judge determined Monday that new Texas abortion restrictions place an unconstitutional burden on women seeking to end a pregnancy, a ruling that keeps open dozens of abortion clinics across the state while officials appeal. The ruling by District Judge Lee Yeakel came one day before key parts of the law the Legislature approved in July were set to take effect. Lawyers for Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers argued in their lawsuit that a provision requiring abortion doctors to have admitting privileges at a hospital less than 30 miles away would have effectively shuttered about a third of the state's 38 clinics that perform abortions.

Asia

Philippine elections marred by pockets of violence

AP

A Filipino woman fills up her ballot as she votes for her candidate in the country's village elections at suburban Taguig city, east of Manila, Philippines, Monday Oct. 28, 2013.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Village elections across the Philippines were relatively peaceful Monday but voting in some rural areas was marred by violence, including two killings, shootouts and the burning of a voting center, officials said.

Troops and police went on full security alert to avert more violence after 22 candidates and supporters died in pre-election violence, mostly shootouts, over the past month. Violence and fraud have long been an unsettling hallmark of Philippine elections.

Fifteen people were killed in village election violence in 2010 and 57 died in the 2007 elections, police said.

In the latest violence, the husband of a candidate for village chairman was shot and killed Monday by suspected political rivals in Jaro town in central Leyte province. A supporter of another village candidate was killed during a rowdy confrontation with army troops in southern Agusan del Sur province, according to police.

More than 800,000 candidates vied for chairmanships and other posts in more than 42,000 urban and rural villages called barangays—the Philippines' smallest political units, where violence and fraud are as much a concern as they are in elections for higher office.

Security was tight in about 6,000 villages considered security hotspots due to a history of electoral violence or attacks by Muslim and communist insurgents or al-Qaida-linked militants.

Although there were some violent incidents, they did not "have a significant effect on the overall peace and order situation on a national scale," national police spokesman Senior Superintendent Theodore Sindac told a news conference.

In southern Maguindanao province, unidentified men fired rifles and grenade launchers, apparently to scare off election personnel delivering ballot boxes in Buldon town. The men fled when troops arrived. Some classrooms in a Buldon school which were to be used as a voting center were burned by unidentified men, disrupting elections in the area, regional military spokesman Col. Dickson Hermoso said.

Gunmen also fired at a voting center in Midsayap town in North Cotabato province, near Maguindanao.

Many teachers refused to serve as election clerks in Maguindanao and North Cotabato amid reports of violence, officials said.

"We will not risk our lives," grade school teacher Bai Nora of Pikit town in North Cotabato told radio station DXND. "After the elections, the losing candidates will get back at us if we do not entertain their desire to cheat," she said.

In the country's worst election violence, 58 members of a political clan and media employees were shot to death in a 2009 massacre allegedly plotted by a rival clan with its armed militia to maintain its political control over southern Maguindanao province. The clan members have denied any wrongdoing. Among the dead were at least 31 media workers. It was the single worst killing of journalists in the world.

China seeks info on Uighurs after deadly crash

BEIJING (AP)—Police investigating the apparent car attack at Beijing's Forbidden City searched Tuesday for information on two ethnic Uighur minority suspects, a hotel employee said, a day after the vehicle plowed through a crowd and crashed, killing five people and injuring 38.

Police released no public information about a possible motive for the incident at one of China's most politically sensitive and heavily guarded public spaces, and it was not immediately clear if the two suspects were among the three people killed inside the vehicle.

Two bystanders, including a Filipino woman, also were killed when the sport utility vehicle veered inside of a barrier separating a crowded sidewalk from a busy avenue and then drove toward Tiananmen Gate, which stands opposite the sprawling Tiananmen Square.

Any incident in the area is sensitive because the square was the focus of a 1989 pro-democracy movement that was violently suppressed by the military.

The 38 injured were among the crowds in front of the gate, where a large portrait of Mao Zedong hangs near the southern entrance to the former imperial palace. Three other Filipinos and a Japanese man were among the injured, police said, but there were no immediate details on their conditions.

Zhao Fuzhou, a security official at Beijing's Xinjiang Dasha hotel, said police had circulated a notice searching for information about two suspects with Uighur names in the aftermath of Monday's deaths. Unconfirmed copies of the notice also were widely circulated on the Chinese Internet.

One of the men, identified in the notice as Yusupu Wumaierniyazi, was listed as living at the address of a town in Xinjiang in which 24 police and civilians and 13 militants were killed in an attack on June 26.

Radicals among the Muslim Turkic Uighurs have been fighting a low-intensity insurgency against Chinese rule for years. This summer saw an unusually large number of violent incidents and Chinese security forces say they have been guarding against attacks outside of Xinjiang.

Uighurs are culturally, religiously and linguistically distinct from China's ethnic Han majority and many have chafed under heavy-handed Communist Party rule.

Beijing police said on their microblog that they were taking "effective measures to ensure the capital's safety and stability."

A police statement said the vehicle had burst into flames after crashing at about noon Monday into a guardrail for one of the ancient stone bridges leading to the gate. The adjacent Chang'an Avenue was closed as police and rescue services converged, but police said traffic was restored just over an hour later.

The incident had every appearance of being deliberate, since the driver apparently jumped a curb and traveled about 400 meters (yards) to the spot where the car was said to have caught fire. Along the way, it avoided trees, street lights and at least one security checkpoint.

Photos of the scene that briefly circulated on the Internet showed a vehicle emitting thick smoke at the gate. Injured people, including a young girl, lay on the ground, many of them bleeding heavily.

Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez said their information indicated that the woman who died and the injured Filipinos—two women and a man—were tourists. "Our embassy is working to gather more details about this incident and to extend the necessary and appropriate assistance to the victims," he said in a statement.

Police said the other tourist killed was a Chinese man from the southern province of Guangdong.

Attendants and nearby concession stand vendors who were asked about the incident all said they were not clear on what happened. Such employees are generally understood to be part-time police informants.

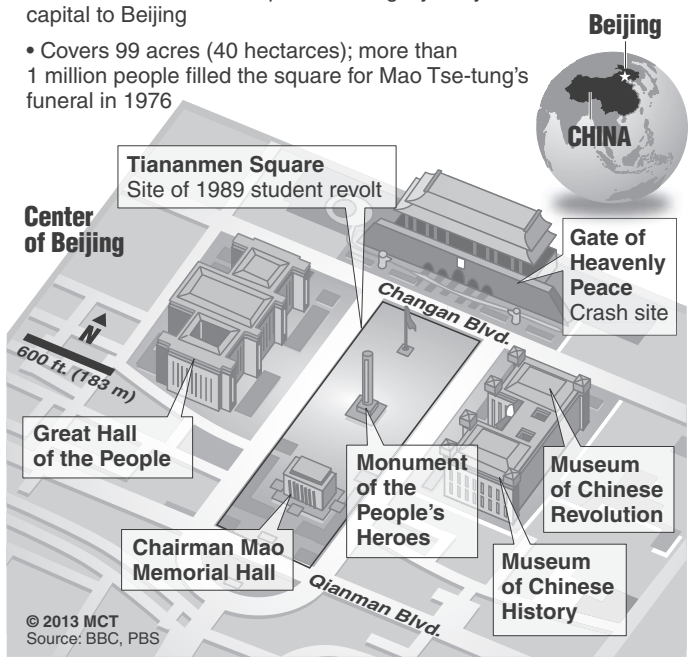
Just west of the square lies the Great Hall of the People, the seat of China's parliament, while many of China's top leaders live and work just a few hundred meters (yards) away in the tightly guarded Zhongnanhai compound.

Tiananmen Square

At least five people died and dozens injured after a vehicle crashed in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, near the Forbidden City.

About the square

- Built in 1420s when emperor of Ming Dynasty moved capital to Beijing
- Covers 99 acres (40 hectarces); more than 1 million people filled the square for Mao Tse-tung's funeral in 1976



World

Hurricane-force gusts batter UK, Europe; 13 dead

LONDON (AP)—A savage coastal storm powered by hurricane-force gusts slashed its way through Britain and western Europe on Monday, felling trees, flooding lowlands and snarling traffic in the air, at sea and on land. At least 13 people were reported killed.

It was one of the worst storms to hit the region in years. The deadly tempest had no formal name—and wasn't officially classified as a hurricane due to a meteorological standard—but it was dubbed the St. Jude storm (after the patron saint of lost causes) and stormageddon on social networks.

Gusts of 99 miles per hour (160 kph) were reported on the Isle of Wight in southern England, while gusts up to 80 mph hit the British mainland. Later in the day, the Danish capital of Copenhagen saw record gusts up of to 120 mph (194 kph) and an autobahn in central Germany was shut down by gusts up to 62 mph (100 kph).

All across the region, people were warned to stay indoors. Hundreds of trees were uprooted or split, blocking roads and crushing cars. The Dutch were told to leave their beloved bicycles at home for safety's sake.

People watch the waves batter the sea wall of a marina in Brighton, south England, Monday, Oct. 28, 2013. AP

At least thirteen storm-related deaths were reported, most victims crushed by falling trees. Germany had six deaths, Britain had five and the Netherlands and Denmark had one each. One woman was also missing after being swept into the surf in France.

Two people were killed in London by a gas explosion and a British teen who played in the storm-driven surf was swept out to sea. A man in Denmark was killed when a brick flew off and hit him in the head.

Despite the strength of its gusts, the storm was not considered a hurricane because it didn't form over warm expanses of open ocean like the hurricanes that batter the Caribbean and the United States. Britain's national weather service, the Met Office, said Britain does not get hurricanes because those are "warm latitude" storms that draw their energy from seas far warmer than the North Atlantic. Monday's storm also did not have an "eye" at its center like most hurricanes.

London's Heathrow Airport, Europe's busiest, cancelled at least 130 flights and giant waves prompted the major English port of Dover to close, cutting off ferry services to France.

Nearly 1,100 passengers had to ride out the storm on a heaving ferry from Newcastle in Britain to the Dutch port of Ijmuiden after strong winds and heavy seas blocked it from docking in the morning. The ship returned to the North Sea to wait for the wind to die down rather than risk being smashed against the harbor's walls, Teun-Wim Leene of DFDS Seaways told national broadcaster NOS.

Europe mulls sanctions against US over spying

BERLIN (AP)—The United States could lose access to an important law enforcement tool used to track terrorist money flows, German officials said Monday, as Europe weighed a response to allegations that the Americans spied on their closest European allies.

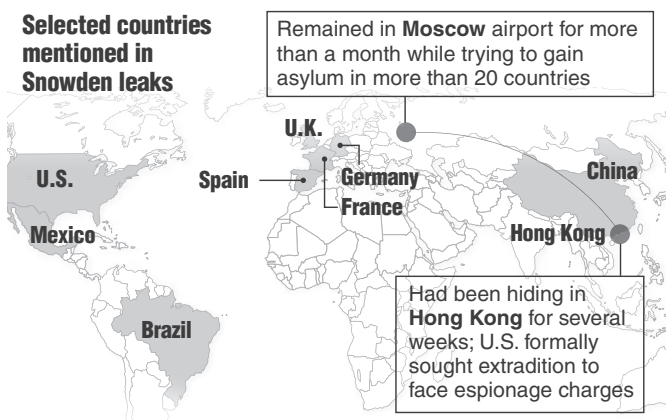
In Washington, Senate Intelligence Committee Chairwoman Dianne Feinstein called for a "total review" of all U.S. intelligence programs in response to the allegations—activity the California Democrat said she wasn't told about.

Feinstein said that while her committee was informed of the National Security Agency's collection of phone records under a secret court order, it "was not satisfactorily informed" that "certain surveillance activities have been in effect for more than a decade"—including eavesdropping on German Chancellor Angela Merkel's own cellphone.

She said President Barack Obama was also not told that Merkel's communications were being collected since 2002.

"With respect to NSA collection of intelligence on leaders of U.S. allies-including France, Spain, Mexico and Germany-let me state unequivocally: I am totally opposed," Feinstein said in a statement Monday.

"Unless the United States is engaged in hostilities against a country or there is an emergency need for this type of surveillance, I do not believe the United States should be collecting phone calls or emails of friendly presidents and prime ministers," Feinstein said. "The president should be required to approve any collection of this sort."


Edward Snowden leaks
Materials leaked by Edward Snowden, a former CIA technical worker and National Security Agency (NSA) contractor, allege that the U.S. government conducted widespread surveillance of its own citizens and of other nations.
Selected countries mentioned in Snowden leaks
Remained in Moscow airport for more than a month while trying to gain asylum in more than 20 countries
U.K.
U.S.
Spain
Germany
France
China
Hong Kong
Mexico
Brazil
Had been hiding in Hong Kong for several weeks; U.S. formally sought extradition to face espionage charges
June 13 Snowden says the U.S. government has been hacking computers in mainland China, Hong Kong
June 16 The Guardian reveals the U.S. and the U.K. spied on foreign leaders and diplomats at the 2009 G20 summit
June 29 Germany's Der Spiegel reports the U.S. bugged EU offices in Washington and at U.N. headquarters
Mid-Sept. U.S. accused of spying on Brazilian and Mexican leaders, based on documents leaked by Snowden
Oct. 21 French newspaper Le Monde claims NSA eavesdropped on millions of phone calls in France
Oct. 24 German media reports that the U.S. was bugging Chancellor Angela Merkel's phone for more than a decade
Oct. 28 Spanish media report NSA secretly monitored 60 million phone calls in Spain in one month
Source: AP, BBC, Reuters
Graphic: Melina Yingling
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Chemical weapons inspectors in Syria miss deadline

BEIRUT (AP)—International inspectors overseeing the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons stockpile have missed an early deadline in a brutally tight schedule after security concerns prevented them from visiting two sites linked to Damascus' chemical program.

The chief of the global chemical weapons watchdog disclosed for the first time in a report obtained by The Associated Press that Syria has declared 41 facilities at 23 chemical sites where it stored approximately 1,300 tons of precursors and agents, and over 1,200 unfilled munitions to deliver them.

Ahmet Uzumcu said in his first report to the U.N. Security Council that inspectors from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons had corroborated the information provided by Syria at 37 of the 41 facilities.

But the OPCW said inspectors were only able to visit 21 of the 23 sites because of security risks—which means the tight timeline for visiting all declared sites by Oct. 27 was missed.

While there are no consequences for missing the deadline, the group's failure to meet it underscores the ambitious timeline as well as the risks its inspectors face in carrying out their mission in the middle of Syria's civil war.

The OPCW did not say who was responsible for the security problems, but Uzumcu has said in the past that temporary ceasefires may have to be negotiated between rebels and forces loyal to President Bashar Assad to reach some sites.

The two sites appear to be in rebel-held or contested areas. At least one location is believed to be the town of al-Safira, which experts say is home to a production facility as well as storage sites. It has been engulfed by fighting for months, and many rebels in the area are from al-Qaida-linked groups.

Mayor: 35 migrants die of thirst in Niger desert

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—About 35 African migrants believed to have been traveling to Europe died of thirst and dehydration in the Sahara Desert after mechanical problems left them stranded, a local official in northern Niger said Monday.

Authorities had only now learned of the tragedy that took place about two weeks ago as survivors finally made their way back, said Rhissa Feltou, the mayor of the town of Arlit in northern Niger.

"This is human trafficking, I'm afraid," he told The Associated Press. "They were probably heading to the Mediterranean to try to go to Europe, or else to Algeria to work."

The path is a well-known traffickers' route for taking people to North Africa, from where they can try to board boats to Europe.

The perils of migration from Africa to Europe have drawn growing attention and debate since the Lampedusa boat tragedy earlier this month. About 365 migrants drowned on Oct. 3 when a boat capsized near the Italian island, which is closer to North Africa than to the European mainland.

Tens of thousands of West African migrants arrive in Europe by sea each year, according to United Nations figures. And as authorities have cracked down on the sea route, a growing number of those dreaming of Europe take their chances by crossing the desert from Niger or Mali.

In this incident, about 60 people had set off in late September from Arlit headed toward the Algerian border, according to the governor, Col. Garba Makido. Some 20 people survived and already five bodies have been recovered, he added.

The final death toll is not yet known and local authorities gave different accounts of where the victims had died.

They Arlit mayor said a total of 35 people had died, including women and children, after their vehicle broke down in a remote area.

Focus

AP
In this photograph made on Sunday, Oct. 27, 2013, an Armenian altar boy climbs on the altar after a service in an Armenian Orthodox church in Damascus, Syria.

Beleaguered SYRIAN CHRISTIANS fear the future

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Sami Amir is used to the deep echoing rumble of the Syrian army artillery pounding rebel positions on the outskirts of Damascus. It's the thump of mortars launched from an Islamist-controlled neighborhood that scares him to death.

The mortars have repeatedly hit in his mainly Christian district of Damascus, al-Qassaa, reportedly killing at least 32 people and injuring dozens of others the past two weeks.

"You don't know when and you don't know where they hit," says Amir, a 55-year-old Christian merchant. "Life here is often too difficult."

Rebel shelling into the capital has increasingly hit several majority-Christian districts, particularly al-Qassaa, with its wide avenues, middle class apartment blocks, leafy parks, popular restaurants and shopping streets busy with pedestrians.

The shelling and recent rebel assaults on predominantly Christian towns have fueled fears among Syria's religious minorities about the growing role of Islamic extremists and foreign fighters among the rebels fighting against President Bashar Assad's rule. Christians believe they are being targeted—in part because of the anti-Christian sentiment among extremists and in part as punishment for what is seen as their support for Assad.

Though some Christians oppose Assad's brutal crackdown on the opposition and the community has tried to stay on the sidelines in the civil war, the rebellion's increasingly outspoken Islamist rhetoric and the prominent role of Islamic extremist fighters have pushed them toward support of the government. Christians make up about 10 percent of Syria's 23 million people.

"When you bring a Christian and make him choose between Assad and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the answer is clear," said Hilal Khashan, a political scientist professor at the American University of Beirut, referring to the al-Qaida branch fighting alongside the rebels. "It doesn't need much thinking."

The rebels have targeted other Syrian minorities, particularly Alawites, the Shiite offshoot sect to which Assad belongs and which is his main support base. Altogether, ethnic and religious minorities—also including Kurds and Druze—make up a quarter of Syria's population. The majority, and most rebels, are Sunni Muslim.

But Christian areas have recently been the focus of fighting.

A week ago, rebels from the al-Qaida-linked group Jabhat al-Nusra attacked the Christian town of Sadad, north of Damascus, seizing control until they were driven out Monday after fierce fighting with government forces. The rebels appear to have targeted the town because of its strategic location near the main highway north of Damascus, rather than because it is Christian.

Still, SANA reported Monday that the rebels in Sadad vandalized the town's Saint Theodore Church, along with much of Sadad's infrastructure.

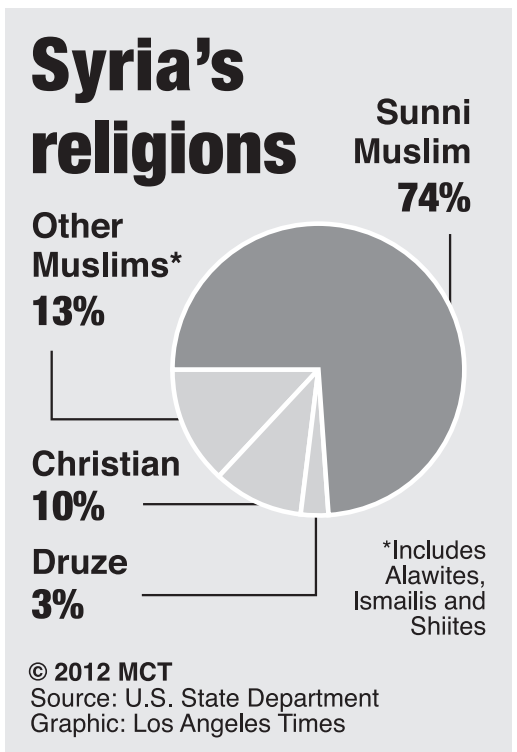
Similarly, thousands fled the ancient Christian-majority town of Maaloula when rebels took control of it last month, holding it for several days until government forces retook it. With rebels in the hills around the town, those who fled are still too afraid to return.

Two bishops were abducted in rebel-held areas in April, and an Italian Jesuit priest, Father Paolo Dall'Oglio, went missing in July after traveling to meet al-Qaida militants in the rebel-held northeastern city of Raqqa. None has been heard from since.

In August, rebel gunmen killed 11 people in a drive-by shooting in central Syria as Christians celebrated a feast day. Activists said at the time that many of those killed were pro-government militiamen manning checkpoints.

Al-Qaida-linked fighters have damaged and desecrated churches in areas they have seized. In Raqqa, militants set fires in two churches and knocked the crosses off them, replacing them with the group's black Islamic banner. Jihadis also torched an Armenian church in the northern town of Tel Abyad on Sunday, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an anti-Assad group that tracks the war through a network of activists on the ground.

The apparent deliberate campaign against Christians and other minorities have stoked worries in Washington and many European capitals over providing advanced weaponry to the mainstream opposition Free Syria Army, amid fears the arms will end up in the hands of extremists.



Christians in Damascus are convinced that extremists are deliberately targeting their neighborhoods as rebels battle government forces trying to uproot them from the towns they control outside the capital. Al-Qassaa is close to besieged rebel-held suburbs where Muslim residents have pleaded for international help to save them from starvation and constant government bombardment.

"Recently I noticed that every Sunday, they launch more than 15 mortars a day," Amir said. "They are targeting specifically Christian areas."

The most recent shells in al-Qassaa hit Thursday on the doorstep of a fashion clothing shop and next to a wall of a local hospital, killing three young men and damaging a church and several cars, which were left riddled by shrapnel.

Hundreds of Christians have fled al-Qassaa to other areas of the capital or into neighboring Lebanon. Nationwide, some 450,000 Christians have fled their homes, part of an exodus of some 7 million during the 2 1/2-year civil war, according to Church officials.

Almost all the 50,000 Christians in the mixed city of Homs have fled, and another 200,000 have fled the northern city of Aleppo, both battleground cities. When insurgents occupied the strategic central town of Qusair in 2012, about 7,000 Catholics were forced out and their homes were looted.

Thousands who fled Maaloula have found refuge in the al-Qassaa and other Christian districts of Damascus. Maaloula was a major tourist attraction before the civil war, home to two of the oldest surviving monasteries in Syria. Some of the residents still speak a version of Aramaic, the language of biblical times believed to have been used by Jesus.

Youssef Naame and his wife Norma, an elderly Christian couple from Maaloula, described how bearded extremist Islamists stormed the northeastern village early last month chanting "God is Great!"

"The jihadis shouted: Convert to Islam, or you will be crucified like Jesus," Youssef said with a shaky voice in his daughter's al-Qassaa apartment.

He said they were trapped with other Christians for three days in a small house next to the town church, without food or electricity.

"There were snipers shooting everywhere, we were not able to move," he recalled. "We were so scared. I lost my speech."

Syrian Church leaders fear that Assad's fall would lead to an Islamist state that would spell the end to the centuries-old existence of Christians on Syrian soil.

"We are not taking any sides in the conflict," Bishop Luka, deputy leader of the Syriac Orthodox Church, said at his headquarters in the historic Damascus Old Town.

"We are standing alongside the country, because this country is ours," he said. "If the country is gone, we have nothing left. Nothing will remain of us. "

Campus Life

College prices appear to be moderating

WASHINGTON (AP)—There's some good news on college tuition. Yes, the cost has gone up—but not as much in the past.

For in-state students at a four-year public college or university, published tuition and fees increased this year on average $247 to $8,893. That's a 2.9 percent increase—the smallest one-year increase in more than 30 years, the College Board said Wednesday in its annual report on college prices.

Out-of-state prices, as well as the costs to attend public two-year colleges and private institutions rose but they also avoided big spikes, said Sandy Baum, co-author of the report. These more moderate increases could lessen concern that an annual rapid growth is tuition prices in the new normal.

"It does seem that the spiral is moderating. Not turning around, not ending, but moderating," Baum said.

The average published cost for tuition and fees at a private college for the 2013-14 academic year was $30,094—up $1,105. An out-of-state student at a public college or university faced an annual average price tag of $22,203, which is up $670. The average price tag to for an in-state student to attend a two-year institution was much less at $3,264—up $110.

Most students don't actually pay that, though. There are grants, tax credits and deductions that help ease the cost of going to college. About two-thirds of full-time students get grants, most from the federal government.

But, in the two years leading up to the 2012-2013 school year, the federal aid per full-time equivalent undergraduate student declined 9 percent, or about $325.

That means students have to foot more of the bill themselves.

"The rapid increases in college prices have slowed, however, student and families are paying more because grant aid is not keeping up," said David Coleman, president of the College Board.

While the average published price for tuition and fees for a private college is $30,094, the net price is $12,460—up $530 from last year. The net price is what they actually pay after grants. There were years this decade that saw the net price going down, but it has gone up the last two years.

The average published in-state price for tuition and fees at a public four-year school is $8,893, but the average net price is about $3,120.

Molly Corbett Broad, president of the American Council on Education, in a statement called it "troubling" that overall grant aid is not keeping up with prices. Her organization represents the presidents of U.S. colleges and universities.

"Institutions are committed to holding down costs, but it is equally important for state and federal governments to play their part to make college affordable," she said.

The College Board is a not-for-profit membership group that promotes college access and owns the SAT exam.

The report spells out the large declines in state appropriations given to public institutions in recent years. These cuts have been blamed for rises in college costs. Other causes often cited range from the high cost of health care for employees to the demand by students for flashier campus amenities.

Among the other findings in the report:

■ Adding in costs for room and board to live on campus, average annual published costs: At public, four-year universities, $18,391 for in-state students and $31,701 for out-of-state students; $40,917 for private colleges and universities; $10,730 for in-state students at public two year schools.

■ The average published tuition and fees at for-profit institutions increased by $70 to $15,130—an increase of less than 1 percent.

■ New Hampshire and Vermont had the highest published in-state tuition and fees at both four-year and two-year institutions. Wyoming and Alaska had the lowest published in-state tuition and fees at a four-year institution, while California and New Mexico had the lowest in-state among two-year schools.

■ In 2012-2013, $238.5 billion in financial aid was issued to undergraduate and graduate students in the forms of grants from all sources, Federal Work-Study, federal loans and federal tax credits and deductions. Also, students borrowed about $8.8 billion from private, state and institutional sources.

■ About 60 percent of students who earned bachelor's degrees in 2011-2012 graduated with debt, borrowing a total of $26,500 on average.

College costs

College costs rose again this academic year, but not as steeply as they have in past years. However, federal aid, which eases the burden for most students, has declined over the past two years.

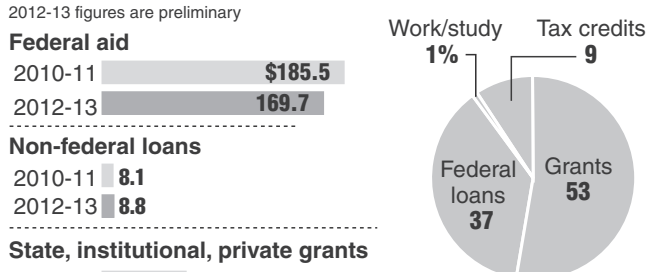
Type of college	2012-13	2013-14	% change
Two-year public	$3,154	$3,264	+3.5%
Four-year public	8,646	8,893	+2.9
Four-year private	28,989	30,094	+3.8

NOTE: Does not include room, board

Sources of aid 2012-13

Public and private sources of funding, in billions

2012-13 figures are preliminary



Source: The College Board

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IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†JACINTO BABAUTA MENDIOLA

of As Lito, Saipan, was called to his eternal rest at the age of 85.

August 17, 1928 – October 24, 2013

His Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts Of His:

Children, Spouses, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren:
Margarita M. & David S. Palacios, children and grandchildren
Angelita B. Mendiola & Edward C. Pinaula, children and grandchild
Norbert B. Mendiola, children and grandchildren
Diego B. & Genie Ott-Mendiola and son
Rita M. & Regino M. Celis, children and grandchildren
Donald B. Mendiola
Edward B. Mendiola & Bertha T. Camacho, children and grandchild
Lillian M. & Manuel M. Pangelinan and son

Caregiver: Judy M. Laniba

In-laws: Maria B. Sablan, Trinidad B. Cameron, Fernando C. & Lorna Benavente, Ignacio C. & Evelyn S. Benavente, Kathy S. Benavente, Teresita B. & Jesus T. Aldan, Roman C. & Andrea Benavente

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Wife: †Sylveria B. Mendiola
Parents: †Aurelio M. & †Ana B. Mendiola
Parents-in-law: †Juan V. & †Rita C. Benavente
Brothers, sister and in-laws: †Vicente B. & †Francisca S. Mendiola, †Antonio B. & †Dolores T. Mendiola, †Sisto B. & †Francisca A. Mendiola, †Visitacion M. & †Leon T. Camacho, †Jose DLG. Sablan, †Allen Cameron, †Modesto & †Dolores B. Salas, †Luis C. Benavente

Daily Mass of Intentions is offered at 6:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church, Koblerville.

Funeral service is scheduled for Thursday, October 31, 2013. Public viewing will be held at 8:00 a.m. and Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral followed by interment at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Un Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You for your thoughts and prayers

Children & Family

Life & Style

A good time for Panettiere as 'Nashville' bad girl

AP

This photo provided by ABC shows Hayden Panettiere in the episode "Never No More" from the television series, "Nashville."

NEW YORK (AP)—Hayden Panettiere is getting her sushi fix.

On a recent whirlwind visit to Manhattan, she takes full advantage of the city's Japanese cuisine, which, she reports, isn't quite so available in Nashville, where she's spending a lot of her time these days.

But that's her only complaint, if that's what it is, about life in Music City and her starring role in ABC's tuneful melodrama "Nashville" (now in its second season, airing Wednesday at 10 p.m. EDT), all of which she loves.

She plays scheming breakout country sensation Juliette Barnes, who's locked in a love-hate rivalry with country music queen Rayna Jaymes (co-star Connie Britton), whose long reign is threatened by Juliette's rise.

Panettiere nails her role, displaying a deft blend of rapaciousness and vulnerability, not to mention impressive pipes.

In the process, she has pulled off two overarching victories. She's left behind her past signature role, the indestructible Cheerleader in the sci-fi drama "Heroes"—a character that could have tied her down forever. Even more remarkably: At 24, she's crossed that treacherous Rubicon that few young actors navigate, from adolescence to the far shore of adulthood.

"'Nashville' was perfect timing with the perfect character," she says after ordering this and that raw fish. "Juliette is so not the good girl that I played on `Heroes,' but she has to put on the facade as a good girl to get what she wants. Juliette is tough, but when she cries, she means it: She's a very damaged young woman running from a dark past. How much more perfect could I ask for?"

Sharing lunch with a reporter at a tony Manhattan restaurant, the petite Panettiere is squeezed into jeans and a sweater of proper weight for the ensuing fall weather. Her chopsticks are soon busy while, spared Juliette's Southern twang (Panettiere hails from Englewood, N.J.), she delves deeper into Juliette's psyche, and her own.

Sure, Juliette is the show's resident villain, "but you get to see her inner workings, what she goes through," Panettiere notes. "It's great to show the audience Juliette's terrible behavior, and then show where that behavior came from: not from a place of malice, but of pain.

"A lot of what I've drawn from is my own personal experience," she says. "I grew up in the entertainment industry, in the spotlight, and have had to deal with some of the same struggles. In this business, there are so many doors wide open to walk through and it looks like the normal thing to do. The difference is, I've always had people around me to yank me back before I went too far."

Panettiere's mother was an actress, her father a New York City firefighter, and she made her screen debut as an infant in a Playskool toys commercial.

Since then she's never stopped acting, nor did she imagine doing anything else. But after "Heroes" ended in 2010, she faced a dry spell before "Nashville" came along.

"It hit me," she recalls, "like a ton of bricks: There is a genuine possibility that no one will ever take another chance on me. That was an important gap between `Heroes' and this show, a huge transition to make gracefully. I don't know how gracefully I did it, but somehow I did."

Callie Khouri, "Nashville" creator and executive producer, said she was unconcerned while casting her new series that Panettiere might still be the Cheerleader in viewers' minds.

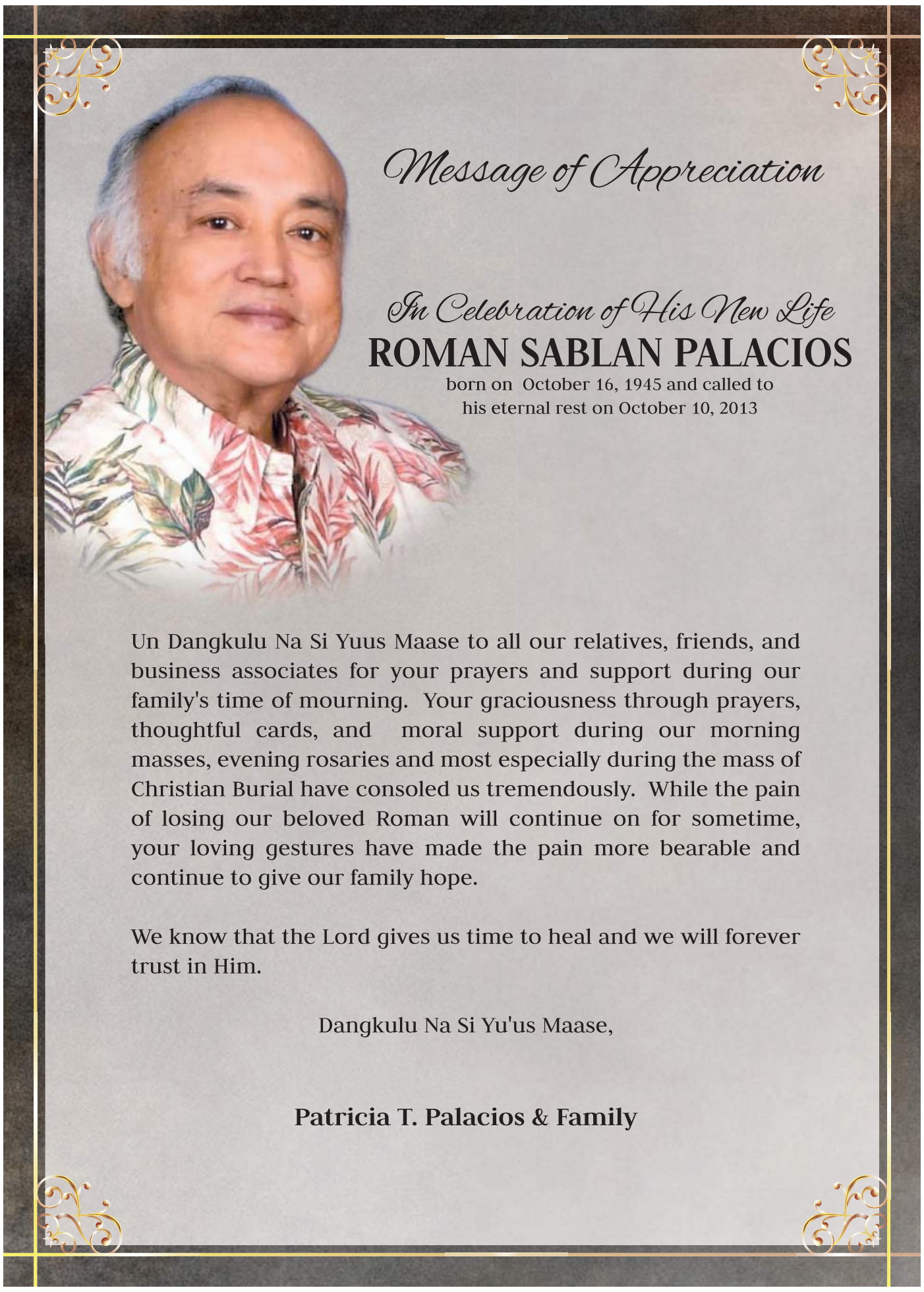
"When she stood in front of the camera as Juliette, I saw the character that I needed, not the one she'd already done," said Khouri by phone from Nashville, marveling at her range: "She can go from being the worst little brat in the world to absolutely breaking your heart.

"We asked her why she thought she was right for this character, what she thought they had in common," Khouri added, "and she said: `Juliette wants to be the best. And that's what I want.' I felt like I was hearing the character talk to me."

Of course, an actress seeming to merge with her character comes with special pitfalls when the character's a bad girl, confirming viewer suspicions that fiction is mirroring real life.

Panettiere acknowledges that Juliette Barnes is exactly the sort of tabloid target she herself has always tried not to become—and not always successfully.

Recently she made public her engagement to professional boxer Wladimir Klitschko, her longtime boyfriend, even as reports of Juliette-like misbehavior raged in tabloid media, alleging "that I've broken up with him, that I've cheated on him, that I'm a home-wrecker, that I've become a mess in Nashville," says Panettiere.


Message of Appreciation
In Celebration of His New Life
ROMAN SABLAN PALACIOS
born on October 16, 1945 and called to
his eternal rest on October 10, 2013
Un Dangkulu Na Si Yuus Maase to all our relatives, friends, and business associates for your prayers and support during our family's time of mourning. Your graciousness through prayers, thoughtful cards, and moral support during our morning masses, evening rosaries and most especially during the mass of Christian Burial have consoled us tremendously. While the pain of losing our beloved Roman will continue on for sometime, your loving gestures have made the pain more bearable and continue to give our family hope.
We know that the Lord gives us time to heal and we will forever trust in Him.
Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Maase,
Patricia T. Palacios & Family

Chris Brown released after assault charge reduced

WASHINGTON (AP)—Chris Brown's misdemeanor assault charge in Washington, D.C., could further complicate the R&B singer's unsettled legal situation. Additional time behind bars remains a possibility for the singer—both in the District of Columbia and California—where Brown remains on probation for his 2009 beating of his on-again, off-again girlfriend Rihanna.

Brown emerged from a Washington court on Monday flashing a peace sign after spending more than a day in custody on a charge filed after a man accused the Grammy winner and his bodyguard of punching him and breaking his nose outside a local hotel.

Brown's arrest early Sunday comes at a crucial time for the singer, who is releasing an album this winter and is under a deadline to complete hundreds of hours of community service to satisfy his sentence for the Rihanna attack.

His day and a half in custody are the longest time the scandal-plagued singer has spent behind bars and the case represents the most serious accusations he's faced since his attack on Rihanna. Brown left the courthouse to cheers from supporters, some of whom clapped when a judge announced he would be released.

His time in custody was much longer than the few hours he spent at a Los Angeles jail after the Rihanna attack. In contrast to Brown's LA court appearances, which routinely happen in the afternoon when his case is the only one on calendar, Brown appeared in a crowded D.C. courtroom and had to wait until the end of the day for his case to be called and his release granted.

Brown is accused of punching a man who tried to get a picture with the singer and two other people near Washington's W Hotel early Sunday, according to the man's account in a police report. The report states Parker Isaac Adams, 20, said Brown told him, "I'm not down with that gay s---" and "I feel like boxing." The exact context of Brown's remarks was not immediately clear.

The man told police Brown punched him in the face, and a court filing states the man's nose was fractured. Brown's bodyguard, Chris Hollosy, stepped between them and also punched the man before grabbing Brown by the arm and leading him toward his tour bus, according to the report.

AP

Singer Chris Brown is surrounded by bodyguards as he departs the H. Carl Moultriel courthouse Monday, Oct. 28, 2013, in Washington.

In an interview with police, Brown denied hitting the man and said he was on his tour bus when Hollosy got into a fight with Adams.

"We understand that his security acted to protect Mr. Brown and Mr. Brown's property as he was authorized to do under District of Columbia law. We are confident that Mr. Brown will be exonerated of any wrongdoing," Brown's lawyer, Danny Onorato, said after Monday's hearing.

Brown, 24, had a squeaky clean image before his attack on Rihanna on the eve of the 2009 Grammys, but since then has had several flare-ups that have been reported to authorities and noted by Los Angeles prosecutors. Brown broke a window after a 2011 "Good Morning America" interview in New York and was accused of snatching a woman's cell phone in Miami after she tried to snap pictures of the singer. He was also slightly injured in a New York nightclub brawl and earlier this year, was accused of being involved in a fistfight with Frank Ocean's entourage over a parking spot at a West Hollywood recording studio.

He was not charged in any of the incidents, but they have kept his public image tarnished, even as legions of fans continue to support him. Many of Brown's more than 13 million Twitter followers continue to come to the singer's defense and attack his critics on the site.

The release of singer's latest album, "X," was delayed earlier this year and is due to be released in the coming months. Brown's career since the Rihanna attack has been a mixed bag: his 2009 album "Graffiti" bombed but he found success with the back-to-back pop hits "Yeah 3x" and "Deuces," which was—one of 2010's top R&B songs.

He also earned his first Grammy win for his album "F. A. M. E." and received several nominations for his follow-up "Fortune." The album featured 2011's most popular rap song, "Look At Me Now."

While jail time would put a dent in his career, others—from the ultra-successful Lil Wayne to T.I.—have made it to the top of the charts after prison stints.

Brown faces an August 2014 deadline to complete 1,000 hours of graffiti cleanup or other community labor. The additional service was added earlier this year after prosecutors accused Brown of failing to properly complete his service in his home state of Virginia.

In addition to penalties Brown would face if convicted in the Washington case, he also faces the possibility of up to four years in prison if a Los Angeles judge determines he violated his probation for the Rihanna attack.

Probation officials would need to investigate the new arrest for it to become an issue in California, which could happen before Brown's next probation progress hearing on Nov. 20.

Judges typically wait to see if a person on probation is convicted in a new case before imposing new punishments, said Los Angeles defense attorney Steve Cron, however Brown's notoriety may prompt earlier scrutiny.

LA prosecutors cited the "Good Morning America" and Miami cell-phone snatching incident in court filings earlier this year seeking modifications to Brown's probation. The office had no comment on the Washington arrest.

Cron said while Brown's fate depends on the facts in the Washington case, the singer's history might lead to some more time behind bars. "If the guy got hurt at all, I think he's looking at some jail time," he said.

In Loving Memory of

†Cesario Taitano Concepcion

Lovingly known as "Charu"

April 20, 1929 – October 28, 2013

In his new life, he now joins:

Wife: †Carmen Attao Concepcion
Children: †Maria Victoria C. Tudela, †Julian A. Concepcion, †Henry A. Concepcion, †Rosa A. Concepcion
Grandchildren: †Realene S. Concepcion, †Jose C. Concepcion, †Juan C. Concepcion
Parents: †Rosa Quitano Taitano and †Julian Cruz Concepcion
Parents In-law: †Natividad San Nicolas Attao and Vicente Magofna Attao
Daughter In-law: †Celina C. Concepcion

Siblings & In-laws: †Juan T. & †Solidad S. Concepcion, †Antonina C. & †Isidro Muna, †Rosita T. Concepcion, †Anna C. & †August Atalig, †Louise C. & †Jose Sablan, †Remedio C. & †Jose Aldan,†Jose SN & †Rosario C. Attao, †Pedro SN & Nympha T. Attao, †Margarita A. Duenas, †Teresita SN Attao, †Isabelle A. & Ignacio M. Benavente, †Maria A. & †Alejandro Q. Bermudes

His Memories Will Forever Live in the Hearts of his

Children:
†Maria Victoria C., Joaquin & Annie Tudela (Families)
†Julian A. & Victoria B. Concepcion (Families)
Edward A. & Dorothy S. Concepcion, †Celina C. Concepcion (Families)
Serafino A. Concepcion
Alicia C. & Jesus M. Taitano (Families)
Julita C. & Francisco DLG. Crisostomo (Families)
Vicente A. & Melva B. Concepcion (Families)
Linda A. Concepcion
Patricia C. & Antonio P. Sablan (Families)
Danny A. & Virginia M. Concepcion (Families)
Richard A. & Lucy B. Concepcion (Families)
Frances C. & Joseph M. Agulto (Families)
Winnie C. & Patrick T. Celis (Families)
Danny Jr. M. & Christine C. Concepcion (Families)

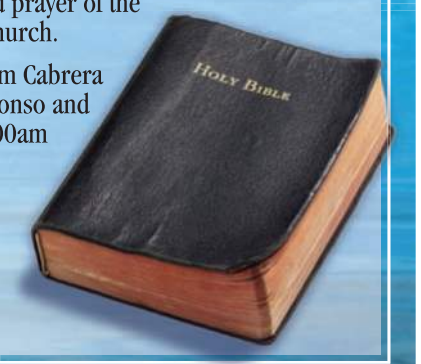
In-law, George Duenas and family (†Margarita A. Duenas)

Caregivers: Lynn P. Almojuela, Maricar Barroga, Tess Barroga, Luz Padilla, and Stella Morales

Cesario will also be missed and forever cherished by numerous families and friends.

Mass for the repose of his soul is being offered daily at 6:00 a.m. and prayer of the Holy Rosary is being said nightly at 7:30 p.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

On Tuesday, November 05, 2013 his remains will be escorted from Cabrera Funeral Home to Kristo Rai Church at 7:30am followed by Responso and Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be prayed at 11:00am and followed by interment at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.



Please join us in prayers.
Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

I FAMILIA

Jackson doctor is released, wants return to medicine

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's doctor was quietly freed from jail on Monday, two years after he was convicted of killing the pop superstar with an overdose of a powerful anesthetic—and he would like to practice medicine again.

Conrad Murray was released at 12:01 a.m. from a jail in downtown Los Angeles after serving about half of his maximum sentence for involuntary manslaughter. A change in California law allowed his incarceration time to be significantly reduced.

Murray was taken from the jail a back way, eluding a cluster of TV crews and a few Jackson fans. Sheriff's officials arranged the quiet exit and drove him away for safety reasons, spokesman Steve Whitmore said.

"He was elated to be out of there" and planned to spend time with his girlfriend and children, said Valerie Wass, Murray's attorney.

Murray

Murray's prospects are uncertain: At age 60 his license to practice medicine has been suspended or revoked in three states, and his face and name are well known due to his association with Jackson and his highly publicized trial.

Wass said Murray wants to be a doctor again.

"I believe that he will practice medicine again someday, somewhere," Wass said.

Brian Panish, an attorney for the Jackson family, said Murray should not have "a chance to hurt anyone else" by practicing medicine.

"He has shown no remorse and the consequences of his actions will last forever," the lawyer said.

The former cardiologist was convicted in 2011 of causing Jackson's death in June 2009 by providing him with the powerful anesthetic propofol as a sleep aid. Jackson was in the midst of preparations for a series of comeback concerts and Murray was serving as his physician.

The former doctor is appealing his conviction, although an appeals court has questioned whether it needs to hear the case. His attorney has argued that the court should not dismiss the appeal because it could alter Murray's overall sentence and reduce some of the stigma his conviction has caused.

Despite being jailed, Murray hasn't been entirely silent. The ex-doctor told the Today show that he cried tears of joy after a civil jury recently determined that the promoters of Jackson's comeback shows did not negligently hire Murray.

He did not, however, testify in the civil case or take the stand during his criminal trial.

Wass said Murray did a lot of writing behind bars, but she didn't know if he had plans for a book or any other projects that would allow him to earn a living.

Murray previously maintained clinics in Houston and Las Vegas and frequently complained about conditions in jail after his conviction. He was allowed to serve his entire sentence in a Los Angeles jail rather than a state prison due to a law aimed at easing overcrowding by shifting nonviolent offenders to local lockups.

"Dr. Murray has not received any special treatment in jail and in fact has many less privileges than most inmates because of his notoriety," Wass said in a statement earlier this year.

In a lawsuit filed by Jackson's mother against concert giant AEG Live LLC, jurors determined that Murray was not unfit or incompetent to serve as Jackson's tour doctor.

The panel did, however, say it did not condone his conduct.

"That doesn't mean we felt he was ethical," jury foreman Gregg Barden said of Murray after the AEG Live verdict.

Cats vs dogs? No contest at US cat video festival

NEW YORK (AP)—Game over. Cats have won the Internet.

At least that was the conclusion among the many attendees of the Internet Cat Video Festival in Brooklyn, New York on Friday. Decked out with cat ears and painted-on whiskers, they lined up around the block to do in a group what they already do in front of their computers: watch amusing cat flicks. This time, there was beer and pierogies.

Cat videos have been so popular online that watching them has become synonymous with wasting time. There are tens of millions of cat videos on YouTube on any given day. They are also abundant on Vine, Twitter's video-sharing app, and on Instagram. One older gem, uploaded to YouTube in 2007, has generated more than 33 million views. It's called "Keyboard Cat." ''Keyboard Dog," meanwhile, has just a measly 4.6 million.

"The cute factor is very important," said Steve Lozic 28, while waiting for the show to begin at the Warsaw concert venue in the trendy Williamsburg section of the borough that even President Barack Obama has declared "cool."

Lozic, who works in advertising, said one of his favorite clips involves cats interacting with iPads, with one cat simply "killing it," as it paws at an iPad screen.

The event was a traveling offshoot of the Minneapolis Walker Art Center's festival of the same name, which now draws than 10,000 attendees who ooh and ahh at famous felines such as Keyboard Cat, Grumpy Cat, Henri the morose, existentialist le Chat Noir and nameless kitties trying to jump into cardboard boxes with hilarious results. The inaugural festival, held last year, received more than 10,000 video submissions from fame-seeking cats—or at least their owners.

The star attendee of Brooklyn's video festival, though, was Lil Bub, a runty kitty who was born with "multitude of genetic anomalies which all add up to one of nature's happiest accidents," according to her website.

Rapper 50 Cent pleads no contest to vandalism

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rapper 50 Cent has been sentenced to three years of probation after pleading no contest to vandalism in a case filed after an alleged fight with his ex-girlfriend earlier this year.

Los Angeles City Attorney's spokesman Frank Mateljan (mah-tell-JIN') says the rapper, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, was ordered on Monday to pay $7,100 in restitution and take year of domestic violence classes.

Jackson had previously pleaded not guilty to destroying items in his ex-girlfriend's condo during a June argument. The woman had accused Jackson of breaking down a door and kicking her, but the domestic violence charge was dropped Monday.

Mateljan says the rapper must comply with a restraining order.

Attorney Scott Leemon said Jackson is pleased the case is resolved and the domestic violence charge was dropped.

AP

In this Oct. 15, 2013 file photo, actor Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson attends the premiere of "Escape Plan" at the Regal E-Walk, in New York.

ABC apologizes for child's joke on Kimmel's show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—ABC is apologizing for a segment of "Jimmy Kimmel Live" in which a child joked about killing Chinese people to help erase the U.S. debt.

The boy's unscripted comment came during a comedy bit in which youngsters commented on news events. The skit, aimed at poking fun at childish politicians, aired last week on Kimmel's late-night talk show.

ABC's apology came in response to a complaint from a group called 80-20 that identifies itself as a pan-Asian-American political organization.

In an Oct. 25 letter to the group, ABC said it would never purposefully do anything to upset the Chinese, Asian or other communities. The network says the skit will be edited out of the "Jimmy Kimmel Live" episode for future airings or any other distribution, including online.

Emile Hirsch to play John Belushi in biopic

NEW YORK (AP)—Emile Hirsch will play John Belushi in a biopic on the comedian.

Production company Film 360 confirmed Monday the casting of Hirsch in the currently untitled independent feature. Directing will be Steve Conrad, who wrote the screenplay of the upcoming Ben Stiller film, "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty." Conrad will also pen the screenplay, adapting the biography "Belushi."

Hirsch

The 28-year-old Hirsch has starred in Sean Penn's "Into the Wild" and the 2008 action film "Speed Racer." He co-starred earlier this year with Paul Rudd in David Gordon Green's "Prince Avalanche," and also co-stars in the upcoming Navy SEAL war film "Lone Survivor."

Production on the film is planned to begin in the spring.

One of the original "Saturday Night Live" cast members, Belushi starred in "The Blues Brothers" and "National Lampoon's Animal House" before dying at the age of 33 in 1982.

Working smoke alarm increases chance of surviving home fire

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am a fire officer who has seen too many families experience accidental home fires, many with fatal results. It is devastating to find out that a life could have been saved had someone taken the simple precaution of replacing a dead battery in a smoke alarm.

In a recent survey, more than 50 percent of the respondents admitted to removing the batteries in their smoke detector, leaving them inoperable. A working smoke alarm in your home greatly increases your chance of surviving a home fire, but only if it is functional.

Please remind your readers to change the batteries in their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors when they turn their clocks back to standard time on Nov. 3. On average, home fires kill seven people every day. No one should be injured or lose a life because of a non-working smoke detector.

This is the 26th year the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and Energizer have collaborated on the Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery Program. What may seem like a tedious task can be lifesaving. A working smoke alarm can give families precious extra seconds to get out safely. If you help me circulate this important safety reminder, together we can make a difference and save some lives.

WILLIAM R. METCALF, PRESIDENT, IAFC

DEAR OFFICER METCALF: I hope my readers will take your letter to heart as I have, and buy those replacement batteries TODAY if they haven't already. Yes, I know tomorrow is Halloween—but as distracting as the holiday may be, your family's safety is more important. If you're buying candy, grab some batteries. On Saturday night you'll be turning your clocks back an hour. Before you do, be sure you insert fresh batteries in your smoke detectors and test the alarms.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 16-year-old girl, and my 45-year-old father acts even more childish than me. He doesn't have a stable job, and he stays out late or never comes home at all.

My father complains that we don't have enough money and says we need to start saving, then he goes and blows his paycheck on booze and his girlfriend. I need a car to get to work, and I'll be going to college in two years. I can't pay for it all myself.

How do I get Dad on the right track? Please help, because I'm tired of worrying about my future and what's left of his.

HEADING FOR COLLEGE SOON
IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR HEADING: I wish I could tell you how to motivate your father to behave more responsibly, but a lesson you should learn early is that you CAN'T change someone else. Your father is a self-centered individual, but only he can change his behavior.

Small college scholarships are offered by some fraternal organizations. I'm glad you wrote, because it's never too early to start exploring what's available. Talk to a counselor at school about what you need to do to earn scholarships. You should also look online or at your local library. You appear to be focused and mature, and with some guidance you can accomplish your goals.

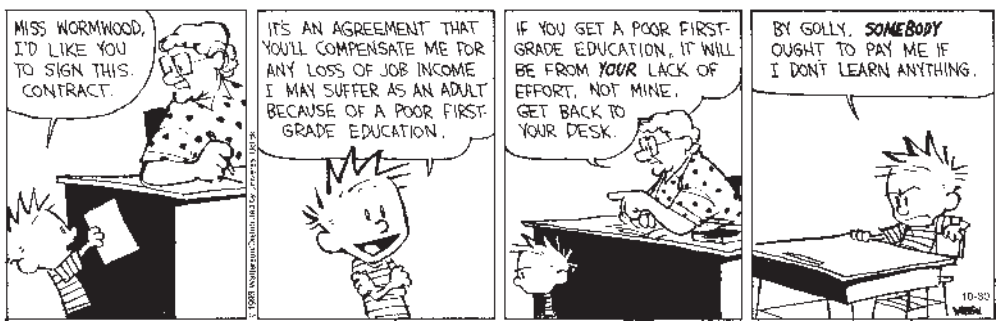
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MISS WORMWOOD, I'D LIKE YOU TO SIGN THIS CONTRACT.
IT'S AN AGREEMENT THAT YOU'LL COMPENSATE ME FOR ANY LOSS OF JOB INCOME I MAY SUFFER AS AN ADULT BECAUSE OF A POOR FIRST-GRADE EDUCATION.
IF YOU GET A POOR FIRST-GRADE EDUCATION, IT WILL BE FROM YOUR LACK OF EFFORT, NOT MINE. GET BACK TO YOUR DESK.
BY GOLLY, SOMEBODY OUGHT TO PAY ME IF I DON'T LEARN ANYTHING.
10-30

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

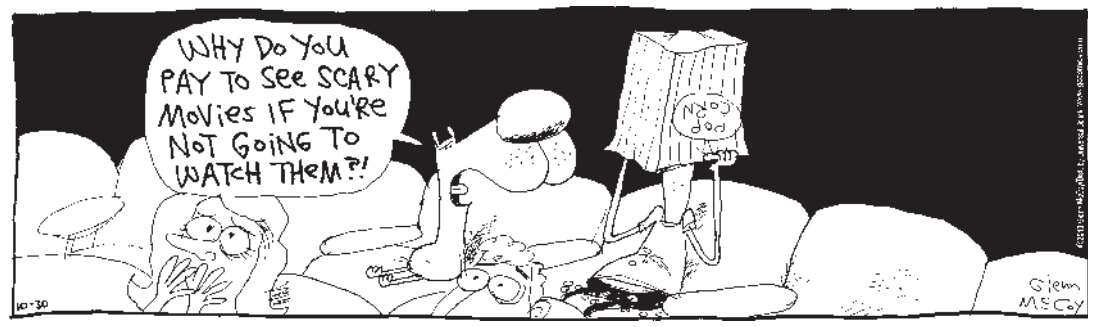
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SEE? I LOVE THE BUNNY COSTUME!
IT'S FINE, DAD. LET'S GO.
NOW WE'RE TALKING.
I JUST THINK THE MILEY CYRUS IDEA WAS BETTER. I EVEN HAD A GREAT LINE PREPARED.
WHICH WAS?
TWERK OR TWEET.
#FUNNY!
10-30

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Cushions
5 Baseball ref
8 Mimicked
12 Met melody
13 Menagerie
14 Not prerecorded
15 Trachea
17 Tournament format
18 Coasters
19 Their work is in vein
21 Speech impediment
24 Foundation
25 Green stone
28 Earring location
30 Possess
33 Earlier
34 Cleaning agent
35 Trouble
36 Evergreen type
37 Help a lawbreaker
38 Uppity sort
39 A Bobbsey Twin
41 Persian leader
43 "Anchors —"
46 Semidiameters
50 Burden
51 Eurus, in Greek myth
54 Otherwise
55 Smartphone download
56 Chantilly, e.g.
57 Small salamanders
58 Snoop
59 Bridge coup

DOWN
1 Cat feet
2 Seed covering
3 Eat in style
4 Cowboy's seat
5 Submachine gun
6 Swab the deck
7 Verse
8 Unaccompanied
9 "Shh!"
10 Always
11 Lairs
16 Omega preceder
20 Mountain goat
22 Unkempt one
23 Sweat outlets
25 Comic Leno
26 Census statistic
27 In coastal Maine
29 Dog owner's ordeal
31 Court
32 Kan. neighbor
34 "Pow!"
38 Shoulder covers
40 Staffers
42 Skill
43 Sheltered
44 Fairy tale villain, often
45 Pile
47 Use an old phone
48 Bygone Peruvian
49 The same, in bibliographies
52 Spring mo.
53 Bond, for one

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	I	L	S	■	G	A	S	■	T	A	M	E
I	D	E	A	■	E	M	U	■	H	E	A	T
R	O	O	T	L	E	S	S	■	R	O	T	C
■	■	■	Y	A	K	■	P	L	I	N	T	H
S	C	A	R	Y	■	S	E	A	L	■	■	■
T	H	U	S	■	R	E	C	K	L	E	S	S
I	O	N	■	C	H	U	T	E	■	K	O	I
R	U	T	H	L	E	S	S	■	C	E	N	T
■	■	■	O	U	T	S	■	B	A	D	G	E
S	T	E	R	E	O	■	A	L	L	■	■	■
I	R	A	N	■	R	E	S	T	L	E	S	S
I	U	R	F	■	I	C	H	■	O	R	F	O
K	E	N	T	■	C	O	Y	■	W	A	X	Y

Yesterday's answer 10-30

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18					■	■	19	20				
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24			■	■
25	26	27		■	28		29		■	30	31	32
33			■	34					■	35		
36			■	37				■	38			
■	■	39	40		■	41		42		■	■	■
43	44				45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50				■	51	52	53					
54					55			■	56			
57				■	58				59			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Matthew Morrison, 35; Gavin Rossdale, 48; Harry Hamlin, 62; Henry Winkler, 68.

Happy Birthday: Learn from the past and set your standards high for the future. Go over every detail involved in your plans. Strive for perfection and you will not be disappointed in the results and the response you receive. Adjust your lifestyle to suit your current day-to-day routine. Jump at any opportunity you get to travel or learn. Your numbers are 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 37, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Know what you are talking about before you enter into a debate. It's confidence and knowledge that will help you excel. Convincing others that your ideas are sound, coupled with practicality and confidence, will be required. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Partner up with someone who can complement what you have to offer. A new opportunity could lead to travel, education or a change in location. Keep things simple for now. A romantic gesture will lead to emotional confusion. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't be too quick to share your emotions. You are likely to be taken advantage of by someone who has ulterior motives. Question what's being asked and offered. Procrastination will only make you look bad. Have a practical, nonpartisan game plan. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Share your thoughts and engage in pastimes that bring you great joy. Explore possibilities that will allow you to use your skills and creative talents to reach your goals. An older relative will offer good advice. Make improvements at home. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't fold under pressure. Take time out for you. A spa day or a shopping spree will help rejuvenate you and ease stress. Plan to spend the evening hours with someone you feel close to. Personal changes will bring you compliments. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Communicate and you will get your point across. Clear up a misunderstanding and you will get the go-ahead to complete a project that means a lot to you. Don't let an emotional situation stop you from attending a special event. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Keep an eye on what everyone else is doing. A problem at home due to someone's pushiness will have to be rectified before you can make a positive change. Don't let someone take advantage of you or it will stifle your feelings. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll be encouraged to learn something new or to visit a place that will bring you in contact with old friends. Focus on the past and see how you can mix them with the present in order to bring about a better future. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Opposition will lead to disappointment if you aren't well versed regarding what you want and how you can achieve it. Keep your upset and anger hidden. A change at home will add to your comfort and ease your stress. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Tie up unfinished business. A promise you make will help push someone you are dealing with to meet you halfway. Do your best to please family and you will be given the support and confidence you need. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Be skeptical of anyone manipulating you to head in a direction that doesn't suit you. Research your options and make a decision based on what will benefit you most. Mix your desires, creativity and happiness with hard work, and follow your dream. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Volunteer work will lead to good fortune. Worthy causes will introduce you to progressive people with something to offer. Share your plans, and the feedback you receive will help you fine-tune your strategy. A contract or settlement looks promising. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are expressive, unique and competitive. You are a perfectionist.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5	1	8	3	9		
	9						5	
7				9				6
9				2				3
2	6			7	1	5		9
4								1
3								5
	8			5			2	
		9	4	1	2	6		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	4	2	7	3	6	8	9	5
6	3	9	1	8	5	7	4	2
8	7	5	4	2	9	6	1	3
3	8	1	6	9	7	5	2	4
2	9	7	5	4	8	1	3	6
4	5	6	2	1	3	9	7	8
9	1	4	8	6	2	3	5	7
7	2	8	3	5	1	4	6	9
5	6	3	9	7	4	2	8	1

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FUNKY NAMES FOR LIPSTICK COLORS **Solution: 6 letters**

A	P	P	L	E	S	G	O	L	D	E	N	S	P	F
E	E	L	Y	R	R	E	H	C	O	O	L	I	A	I
C	R	L	U	A	I	L	E	G	U	O	R	N	S	N
I	F	U	P	M	Y	K	N	U	F	A	F	V	S	E
P	E	E	P	P	K	R	E	T	T	Ⓐ	L	E	I	E
S	C	E	P	P	A	N	R	E	R	Ⓖ	M	L	O	T
I	T	O	G	P	I	N	I	E	E	Ⓐ	O	L	N	T
N	P	E	L	N	I	N	E	P	B	Ⓢ	C	E	L	E
T	E	U	O	E	A	N	U	D	Y	N	H	B	A	U
E	O	Q	S	V	V	R	K	P	D	M	A	E	R	O
R	N	I	S	O	P	C	O	S	P	I	R	R	O	H
L	Y	N	G	L	A	I	M	A	L	E	B	O	C	L
U	R	U	E	L	T	O	C	I	R	P	A	R	T	I
D	E	Y	B	A	B	L	A	T	S	Y	R	C	O	S
E	T	I	H	W	T	L	E	F	T	R	A	E	H	F

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Yesterday's Answer: Glowing

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-14-001 **Position: Legislative Assistant**
PL-UNGRADED: $1,148.36 B/W **Opening Date: October 25, 2013**
The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee **Closing Date: November 8, 2013**
Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

General Duties:
- Drafts legislative documents including but not limited to resolutions, committee reports, and letters, as requested by the Chairperson of the Committee to which he or she is assigned to;
- Attends legislative session and committee meetings as requested by the Chairperson of his or her assigned committee;
- Performs investigative and legislative research and analysis;
- Prepares reports and studies including preparation of letters, legislation, and related documents as requested by members of his or her assigned respective legislative house;
- Maintains a reasonable record of all tasks assigned by his or her immediate supervisor Chairperson of the Committee or other members of his or her assigned respective legislative house and such record is subject to review upon request; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications and Requirements:
- **Possess four years relevant work experience or a minimum of an AA or AS degree or higher from a United States accredited institution of higher education with one year of legislative work experience;**
- **Possess ample knowledge of the legislative process;**
- **Excellent research, analytical, and strong writing skills; and**
- **Ability to produce results within limited time frames and work under pressure on a daily basis.**

Education requirements may be substituted with related experience

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate. **Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.**

Employment application may be accessed at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

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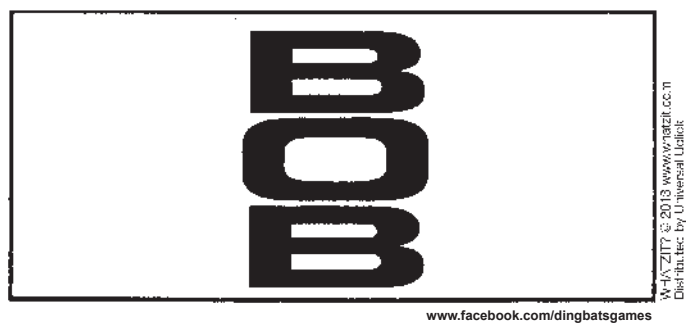


Find today's solution in classified section

Red Sox inch closer to World Series victory

AP

St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina tags out Boston Red Sox's David Ross at home during the seventh inning of Game 5 of baseball's World Series Monday, Oct. 28, 2013, in St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Jon Lester pitched the Boston Red Sox within a whisker of yet another World Series championship.

Now, this bearded band goes back to Fenway Park just one win away.

"Pretty special time," Lester said.

Lester bested Adam Wainwright once again, journeyman David Ross hit a tiebreaking double in the seventh inning and the Red Sox downed the St. Louis Cardinals 3-1 Monday night to take a 3-2 Series edge.

David Ortiz delivered his latest big hit, too, putting Boston in position to capture its third crown in a decade. Not since 1918 have the Red Sox clinched the title on their own field.

"This atmosphere here, these three games, has been phenomenal. We know it's going to be equal to that, if not better. And we're excited about going home in the position we are," Red Sox manager John Farrell said.

Added Ortiz of Boston's century-old bandbox: "It's going to get loud out there."

John Lackey gets the first chance to win it Wednesday night against St. Louis rookie sensation Michael Wacha. A Cardinals victory would set up a most spooky proposition for both teams - Game 7 on Halloween night.

"It will be legendary if we go into Boston and win two games," Wainwright said.

Ortiz enjoyed even more success in Game 5 after moving up from cleanup to the third slot. He is 11 for 15 (.733) in this Series with two homers, six RBIs and four walks.

"I was born for this," Ortiz said, grinning.

The slugger left in a double switch, shortly after legging out a hit in the eighth. He was OK, and he'd already done enough damage to the Cardinals.

"What planet's that guy from?" Ross said.

Lester enhanced his reputation as an October ace with every pitch. He allowed one run and four hits in 7 2-3 innings, striking out seven without a walk. Nearly the same line he had in beating Wainwright in the opener.

"I think the biggest thing is me and Rossy have had a good rhythm," Lester said. "Early on, we just went back to our game plan from Game 1 and just fell back on that and really just tried to make them swing the bats early, and we were able to do that."

The lefty who's won all three of his career World Series starts had just one scary inning, when Matt Holliday homered in the fourth, Carlos Beltran flied out to the wall and Yadier Molina hit a liner. Other than that, Lester was sharp as a knife while retiring 12 in a row.

He tweaked himself late, but said he was all right. In fact, Lester's biggest brush with major trouble came well before his first pitch.

Lester was getting loose near the warning track when a team of eight Clydesdales pulling a beer wagon came trotting by - it's a Busch Stadium tradition and Lester moved aside to watch the horses.

He also took a brief break in the seventh. A giant paper airplane floated down from the stands, and some fans cheered its flight as it landed near the mound. Lester handed it to a ballboy, and retired Molina to end the inning.

"It was a tough loss. It was 1-1 in the seventh, that was obviously the game. Tip your cap to Ross, he hit a double to take the lead," Wainwright said. "Their guy Lester did a good job."

And he did it without any flap over his glove. During Game 1, a Cardinals minor league pitcher posted a picture on Twitter of discoloration on Lester's mitt and wondered if some foreign substance was there.

Lester said he merely used rosin for a better grip, and Major League Baseball said it didn't see anything wrong.

Koji Uehara got four outs for his second save. No crazy endings this time, either, following one night with an obstruction call and the next with Uehara's game-finishing pickoff.

The Cardinals went quickly in the ninth, and now need two wins in Boston. They overcame a 3-2 deficit at home to beat Texas for the 2011 title.

"The guys know what we have to do," manager Mike Matheny said. "We have to play the game. They have to lock arms, trust each other and play the game the right way. Most of it is going to be the mentality of not buying into any kind of stats, any kind of predictions, any kind of odds. And go out and play the game."

Ortiz put Boston ahead with an RBI double in the first, hitting the first pitch after Dustin Pedroia doubled on an 0-2 curve. Ortiz singled the next time up and tied the Series record by reaching base in nine straight plate appearances.

Big Papi and the Red Sox took two of three at the NL park despite playing without a designated hitter. Ortiz became the first baseman, putting slugger Mike Napoli on the bench.

The Red Sox lead the Series despite a .205 team batting average. Ortiz has one-third of the team's 33 hits.

Ross, a graybeard on a team led by scraggly veterans, broke a 1-all tie when he hooked a drive just inside the left-field line, and the ball bounced into the seats for a go-ahead double.

"How about that? It's nice to drive in runs," Ross said. "I've got to credit the guys in front of me."

Jacoby Ellsbury later hit an RBI single, and Ross was thrown out at the plate trying to score on the play.

A day after Ortiz delivered a stirring, in-game pep talk to rev up the Red Sox, the Cardinals could've used some inspiration themselves - perhaps a visit from the good-luck Rally Squirrel from their 2011 title run.

The St. Louis hitters went quietly, a couple slinging their bats after routine popups and fly balls and others questioning the solid calls by plate umpire Bill Miller.

Holliday shook St. Louis' slumber and broke Lester's string with his second home run of the Series. Lester had pitched 16 1-3 scoreless innings in his first three World Series starts before Holliday tagged him.

That was all St. Louis got. Not even a revamped lineup that included the hobbled Allen Craig helped the Cards.

Wainwright changed things the next time Ortiz came up, varying his tempo and delivery. Ortiz still hit it hard while lining out to center.

Wainwright struck out 10 in seven innings, becoming the first Cardinals pitcher to reach double digits in the Series since Bob Gibson did it twice in 1968 against Detroit.

It was a big sports night in St. Louis, with an NFL game between the Rams and Seattle eight blocks away at the Edward Jones Dome. This is a baseball town, clearly: Football tickets sold for $10 on StubHub as kickoff approached, and fans inside the dome loudly booed when the World Series game was taken off the video board.

Ortiz on record pace for Red Sox

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Maybe the St. Louis Cardinals should give David Ortiz the Barry Bonds treatment and just stop pitching to him.

The Red Sox slugger is on a tear in the World Series. He went 3 for 4 with an RBI double on Monday night as Boston won 3-1 to move within one game of its third title since 2004.

Ortiz doubled home Dustin Pedroia in the first, singled in the fourth and singled again in the eighth. His lone out was a smash to center caught by Shane Robinson.

Ortiz is hitting .733 with two homers, two doubles and six RBIs in the series. The Cardinals have intentionally walked him just once, though they've pitched around him for four other walks.

''What planet is that guy from?" Red Sox catcher David Ross asked.

First base was open in the first after Pedroia's one-out double, but Adam Wainwright went after Ortiz and Big Papi lashed a hit down the right-field line.

Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said the plan was to make ''tough pitches" rather than walk Ortiz.

Ortiz is on pace for one of the best World Series hitting performances ever. Not that his manager is ready to anoint him MVP of the series.

''The one thing we won't do is get too far ahead of ourselves, whether that's what we achieve collectively or what any individual's performance suggests," Red Sox manager John Farrell said. ''But he's in a really good place, obviously."

Billy Hatcher of the Reds hit .750 with an .800 on-base percentage in the Reds' sweep of the Oakland Athletics in 1990, a performance that included seven straight hits. Both the average and on-base percentage are all-time highs for qualifying World Series players. Ortiz has an on-base percentage of .750 so far in this series.

MLB seeks dismissal of A-Rod's lawsuit

NEW YORK (AP)—Lawyers for Major League Baseball are seeking a speedy dismissal of an Alex Rodriguez lawsuit accusing the league and Commissioner Bud Selig of trying to drive him out of baseball, according to a letter sent to a judge Monday.

U.S. District Judge Lorna G. Schofield in Manhattan agreed that lawyers on both sides could make their formal requests by Nov. 8. A hearing is scheduled for a day earlier.

Jordan Siev, a lawyer for Rodriguez, wrote in a joint letter to the judge from lawyers on both sides that MLB lawyers planned to ask that the lawsuit be dismissed.

He said lawyers for the New York Yankees third baseman would ask that the case be remanded to state court in Manhattan, where Rodriguez had filed it early this month before the league removed it to federal court. Siev said the requests by the league and Rodriguez both concern whether the lawsuit's claims fall outside or are pre-empted by the Taft-Hartley Act, known formally as the Labor Management Relations Act.

In the lawsuit, Rodriguez accused the league and Selig of going on a ''witch hunt" designed to force him out of the game. The Major League Baseball Players Association has filed a grievance to overturn a 211-game suspension given to Rodriguez by MLB on Aug. 5 for alleged violations of baseball's drug agreement and labor contract. A ruling in a case being heard by arbitrator Fredric Horowitz is not likely before winter.

The three-time AL MVP claimed in his lawsuit that MLB and Selig targeted Rodriguez to cover up Selig's alleged past inaction on performance-enhancing drugs. The lawsuit claimed Selig hoped to redeem himself by going after Rodriguez.

At the time the lawsuit was filed, the league called the action ''desperate" and a violation of the confidentiality provisions of the league and union's Joint Drug Agreement.

A lawyer for the league and Selig referred a request for comment Monday to an MLB spokesman, who did not immediately respond.

Seahawks' stand preserves 14-9 win over Rams

ST. LOUIS (AP)—The Seattle Seahawks struggled on offense against the scrappy St. Louis Rams, so they had to leave Monday night's game in the hands of one of the NFL's most stingy defenses.

With its back on the goal line, the defense answered the challenge.

The Seahawks stuffed Daryl Richardson on third-and-goal, and then caused Kellen Clemens to overthrow his intended target in the corner of the end zone on the final play of a nerve-wracking 14-9 victory.

"The defense did a tremendous job, coming up with a huge stop there," said Seahawks star Russell Wilson, who was sacked a career-high seven times.

The outcome capped a lousy night for St. Louis sports fans. The Cardinals lost 3-1 to the Boston Red Sox in Game 5 of the World Series, played just up Broadway at Busch Stadium.

"I'm proud of our guys," Rams coach Jeff Fisher said. "We felt like we had a chance."

Seattle (7-1) extended the best start in franchise history despite gaining just 135 yards, with 80 coming on Wilson's second TD pass to Golden Tate. It was the third-fewest yards in a victory for the Seahawks, and their seven first downs were the fewest in a win in franchise history.

"We were very fortunate," Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said. "Under the circumstances with a new quarterback, they did a great job. We just couldn't get going on offense. Fortunately, the defense hung together and gave us a chance to win the game."

AP

St. Louis Rams wide receiver Tavon Austin (11) gets tackled by Seattle Seahawks cornerback Brandon Browner (39) during the first half of an NFL football game, Monday, Oct. 28, 2013, in St. Louis.

Clemens finished with 158 yards passing in place of the injured Sam Bradford, but he also threw two interceptions. Zac Stacy ran for a career-high 134 yards to pace the Rams (3-5).

"It's not always going to be pretty," said Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman, who grabbed his fourth interception of the season. "You have to be able to win ugly."

The World Series no doubt contributed to the stale atmosphere inside the Edward Jones Dome, where the announced crowd of 55,966 was in reality much smaller. Many of the fans who did show up wore Cardinals gear, and Cardinals-Red Sox highlights were shown on the big screen.

Greg Zuerlein staked St. Louis to an early lead with his first of three field goals, but Sherman's pick put the Seahawks in business. Seattle scored six players later, when Wilson hit Tate from the 2-yard line.

Zuerlein got the Rams within 7-6 late in the third quarter, but the Seahawks answered.

Wilson went deep down the sideline to Tate, who made an acrobatic leaping catch over Janoris Jenkins. Tate regained his balance and then mockingly waved at safety Rodney McLeod as he ran to the end zone, earning an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

"He just was so in the moment and just made an unbelievable catch," Wilson said. "You've got to give him credit for just attacking the football right there."

Zuerlein connected again to get St. Louis to 14-9, but he missed a 50-yard field goal in the fourth quarter. That proved to be critical because the Rams would have needed just another field goal from him on their final drive, rather than a touchdown, to steal the win.

They still had a chance after they took over at their own 3-yard line with just over 5 minutes left, and methodically marched down field. They had first-and-goal at the Seattle 6 with about a minute left, and Richardson carried the ball to the 2.

An encroachment call on Seattle put the ball at the 1, but Richardson was stuffed on third down and Clemens misfired on fourth down as the final seconds ticked off the clock.

"We needed 97 yards, we got 96," Clemens said. "There was such a great sense of resolve in the huddle as soon as I walked in the huddle. Everybody knew. Nobody really had to say anything. We gave ourselves a win at the end, but unfortunately we didn't make the play."

Panthers Mitchell: I'm being 'targeted' by Goodell

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Panthers free safety Mike Mitchell said he's being ''targeted'' by Commissioner Roger Goodell after receiving his fifth fine of the season from the NFL.

Mitchell was fined $7,875 last week by the league for taunting after he shoved Rams quarterback Sam Bradford out of bounds during a game on Oct. 20. Bradford suffered a season-ending knee injury on the play.

Mitchell wasn't penalized for taunting in the game.

''I'm being targeted because I play football physical, but I'm not out here cheap-shoting guys and doing dirty plays like I've seen people from Detroit do,'' Mitchell said. ''I'm not going to name names. But I'm not out here doing those things so why I'm getting fined I really have no idea.''

Mitchell went on to say that the fine money ''goes right in Roger's pockets - right in his pocket.''

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said Goodell does not make the decisions regarding on-field infractions.

League policy states that the officiating department reviews every play of every game and then passes along suspect plays to executive vice president of football operations Ray Anderson and vice president of football operations Merton Hanks, who then make the decision to discipline a player for an on-field violation.

''As far as our office singling out specific players, (the) enforcement of rules, including discipline, is based on actions,'' McCarthy said in an email to The Associated Press. ''Repeat offenses result in increased discipline. That has always been part of the system to create the proper deterrent to violations of rules.''

NFL policy also states that money collected from player fines is donated through the NFL Foundation to various programs, including those to assist former players.

Mitchell has been a valuable addition to the Panthers defense since coming to Carolina as unrestricted free agent from the Oakland Raiders.

He's brought big-play ability and aggressiveness to a young and inexperienced secondary.

Mitchell is third on the team in tackles with 30 and has three interceptions, two forced two fumbles and two sacks in seven games.

Coach Ron Rivera said he's been pleased with what Mitchell's contributions to the league's third-ranked defense.

''Mike plays very hard, physical football and has a great style, and he's got a great brand'' of football, Rivera said. ''It's spreading among our players in terms of them being physical football players. And he's done a great job for us and I most certainly do appreciate what he's doing for our defense.''

Mitchell said he's appealed all four previous fines this season and at least two have been reduced.

Despite the fines, which he estimates to be in the $45,000 range, Mitchell said he has no intention of changing his approach to the game.

''I'm going to keep playing my game,'' Mitchell said. ''It's working for our defense and our team. Like I said as long as I'm not getting penalized and it's not hurting our team I'm fine with it.''

Mitchell feels like he's been targeted by the league ever since he came into the league in 2009, adding that he's been fined at least once in every season and more than 10 times during his NFL career.

He called the latest fine, ''Roger being Roger, I guess.''

''To be honest, I think there is a little bit of a targeting system they have out. I think I'm one of the guys they'd been looking for, but I'm OK with that,'' Mitchell said.

The 26-year-old Mitchell feels like he only got fined for taunting because he injured a big-name quarterback.

''If you look at the game (against the Rams), I did that same celebration earlier in the game and I didn't get fined for that play,'' Mitchell said. ''I'm only getting fined for the play he got hurt on so obviously there is a bias there, there was a quarterback injured on the play and they want to fine me for that. If you're going to fine me for the act (of taunting), then fine me for both of them.''

Woods says next step is up to Golf Channel

HAIKOU, China (AP)—Tiger Woods issued a veiled challenge to Golf Channel over a column written by analyst Brandel Chamblee that a series of rules violations by Woods amounted to cheating.

Woods spoke publicly for the first time since Chamblee, a longtime critic of the world's No. 1 player, wrote a column for SI Golf Plus in which he gave Woods an "F" for his season for being "a little cavalier" with the rules.

Chamblee is best known for his work with Golf Channel, though he also is a contributor to SI Golf Plus. He took to Twitter last week to apologize to Woods for "this incited discourse," though not for the content of his column.

"All I am going to say is that I know I am going forward," Woods said before his exhibition match with Rory McIlroy at Mission Hills. "But then, I don't know what the Golf Channel is going to do or not. But then that's up to them. The whole issue has been very disappointing as he didn't really apologize and he sort of reignited the whole situation.

"So the ball really is in the court of the Golf Channel and what they are prepared to do."

Golf Channel has not commented on the flap. Chamblee has said he was not asked to apologize by anyone.

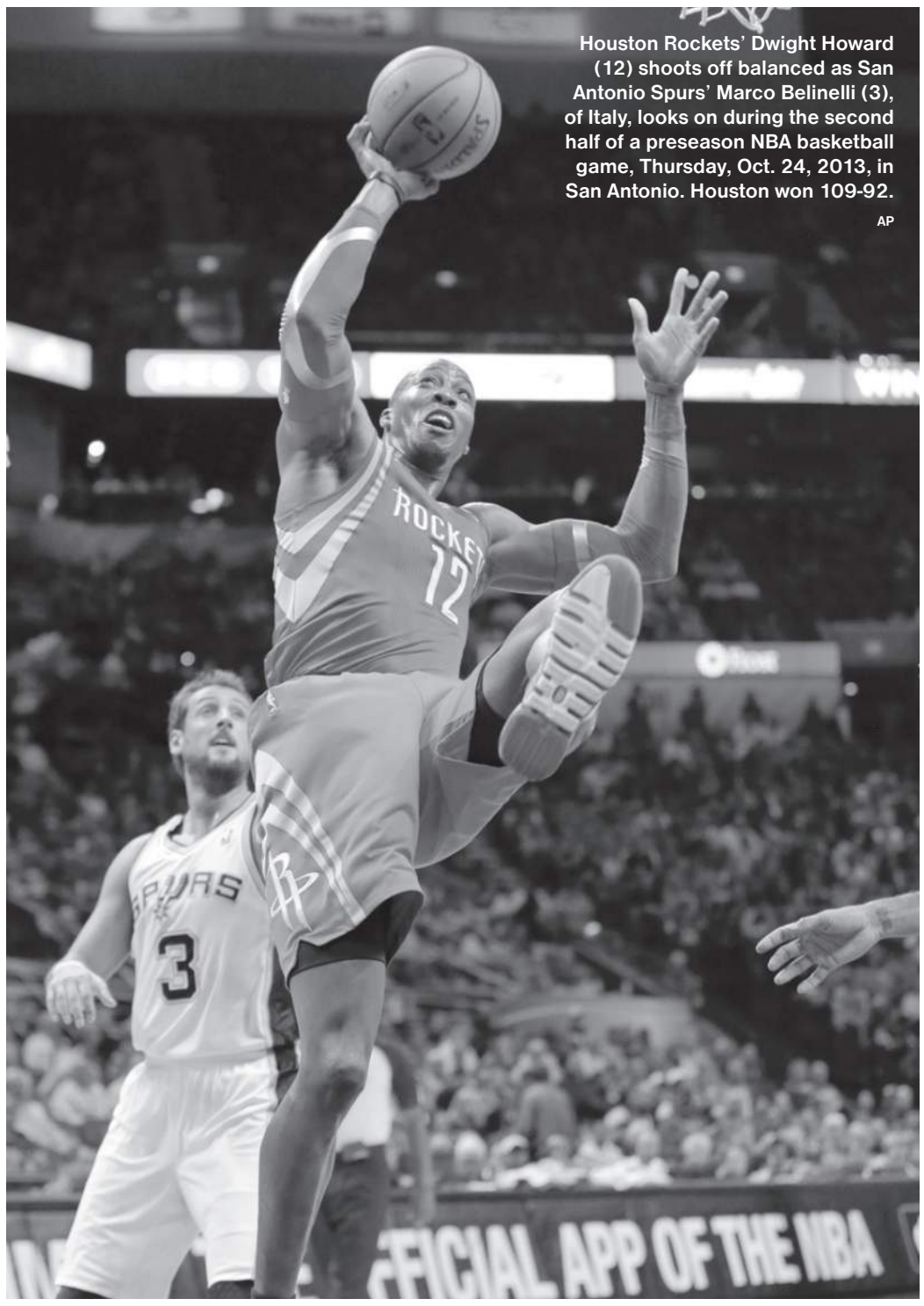
Chamblee saved Woods for last in his report card of 14 players in a column posted Oct. 18 on Golf.com. He told of getting caught cheating on a math test in the fourth grade, and how the teacher crossed a line through his "100" and gave him an "F."

Chamblee followed that anecdote by writing, "I remember when we only talked about Tiger's golf. I miss those days. He won five times and contended in majors and won the Vardon Trophy and ... how shall we say this ... was a little cavalier with the rules." He then gave Woods a "100" with a line through it, followed by the "F."

In one of his tweets last week, Chamblee said he intended to point out Woods' rules infractions, "but comparing that to cheating in grade school went too far."

Woods' agent, Mark Steinberg, was so incensed by the column that he issued a statement to ESPN.com that raised the possibility of legal action. Steinberg shared his client's views.

New looks and a familiar favorite for NBA



Houston Rockets' Dwight Howard (12) shoots off balanced as San Antonio Spurs' Marco Belinelli (3), of Italy, looks on during the second half of a preseason NBA basketball game, Thursday, Oct. 24, 2013, in San Antonio. Houston won 109-92.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)— Dwight Howard moved on and Derrick Rose came back, though Kobe Bryant won't quite yet. Nine first-time coaches are coming in and David Stern will soon head out.

With different looks all around the NBA in 2013-14, one familiar sight remains: LeBron James and the Miami Heat are entering another season as the team to beat.

The two-time defending champions will collect their rings Tuesday night, then open against the Chicago Bulls, who with a healthy Rose might be the team that can unseat the Heat.

Or maybe it's San Antonio or Indiana, both a game away last year - actually, the Spurs were just seconds away - from finishing off Miami. Perhaps it's the Nets or Clippers, after both picked up pieces of the old Celtics that had the Heat's respect but not their number.

If someone does dethrone King James, it won't be because he was satisfied with two titles and lost his edge.

''When the hunger is gone, I'm going to give it up," James said. ''I've got a talent and I'm going to take full advantage of it. So I'm hungry.

''I love the game. There's nothing I would do more than play this game of basketball. So the championships are all great, but I'm playing for more than that. I've got a bigger calling than that."

If he means becoming the best ever, he might be on his way. With four MVP trophies and no noticeable weaknesses, the gap with his peers is getting larger and the one with the greats before him is shrinking.

Los Angeles Clippers power forward Blake Griffin, center, goes up for a dunk as Utah Jazz power forw …

''He's the best on the planet right now. I don't know what you can do, but just hope that he misses," said Nets coach Jason Kidd, one of the nine coaches getting his first opportunity. In total, 13 teams changed coaches.

James did miss in the closing seconds of Game 6 of the NBA Finals, but the Heat got the rebound to set up Ray Allen's tying 3-pointer, pulled it out in overtime and won Game 7 to deny the Spurs a fifth title.

San Antonio may get another chance to finish the job, or may not even be the best team in Texas after Howard joined James Harden in Houston.

Howard bolted after one unfulfilling season in Los Angeles, where he and Bryant never found a working partnership. The center already seems happier and healthier in Houston, where he and Harden can build a potent inside-outside tandem.

As for Bryant, he'll watch the Lakers' opener, and who knows how much more, while he continues to rehab from a torn Achilles' tendon. Questions over how well he can play at 35 after such a serious injury, along with Howard's departure, created unusually low expectations for the Lakers.

Instead, the buzz in Los Angeles is about the Clippers, who hired Doc Rivers to coach while Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett went to Brooklyn after Boston's breakup. That also could make both longtime losers not only the current kings of their cities, but also contenders to reach the NBA Finals - which are returning to the 2-2-1-1-1 format after 29 years of 2-3-2.

LOVE

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opening game, 112-96, to improve to a 5-0 record, while Proa dominated Toka Degree (1-4) in the second match, 88-69, for a 4-0 card.

Triples rained in the I Love Ladder Beach and Mobil tussle with the former having the upper hand, connecting on 18 treys against the latter's 13.

Elgene Mangali dropped 6 triples for a game-high 27 points. His back-to-back shots from beyond the arc after Marlon Sison opened the final canto with a basket from downtown, too, started an I Love Ladder Beach breakaway. The team was ahead by 12 points at the end of the third canto, 82-70, and stretched the advantage, as Sison and Mangali continued to wax hot early in the fourth, while Rolly Paraiso and three other I Love Ladder Beach players picked up the slack in the closing minutes.

Freddie Pelisamen tried to keep Mobil in the game, as he also knocked in three triples in the fourth, but I Love Ladder Beach was simply on a zone, drilling one basket after another. I Love Ladder Beach sizzled for 30 points in the fourth, its biggest in a quarter and averaged 27.3 points in the first three periods with Mangali and company on fire from the 3-point line.

Sison also nailed six triples and finished with 19 points, while Kevin De Leon had two and added 12 markers. Paraiso and Wowie Abuel also chipped in twin digits with 17 and 15 markers, respectively.

Ronnel Gamboa top-scored for Mobil with his 33 points and he also matched Sison and Mangali's conversion from downtown. However, he was held to two field goals in the fourth, leaving only Jun Estolas and Pelisamen to counter attack for Mobil. Pelisamen had 28 markers, while Estolas contributed 10. Bart Demapan was the fourth Mobil player to score in twin digits (10), and the three other players of coach Marvin Deocares nailed no more than one basket.

In the second game, Proa played an unpredictable offense to coast past Toka.

Six players registered double figures for Proa with Soane Pua leading his team in scoring for the first time with his 14 points. Joshua Sablan added 12, Dan Barcinas and Marvin Rabauliman contributed 11 each, and Lerio Pagarao recorded 10.

Axe Proa's points were so evenly distributed that it left Toka Degree's defense guessing all throughout the match. In contrast, Toka Degree was a two-man show with only Juan Camacho and Jawn Joyner burning the hoops for the team and scoring 23 and 22 points, respectively.

Sablan led Proa in the first quarter, hitting two triples and giving his team a 14-8 lead. Sablan added two more treys early in the second canto, while Barcinas took over past the halfway mark of that period, getting 8 points for a 36-29 halftime advantage.

In the third canto, seven Proa players made it to the board to break the game wide open, 64-49, while Pua made good use of his quality minutes in the fourth canto, knocking 8 of his total markers in that frame.

First Game

I Love Ladder Beach 112 – Mangali 27, Sison 19, Paraiso 17, Abuel 15, De Leon 12, McCain 8, Montano 7, Standish 5, Concepcion 2.

Mobil/JP World 96 – Gamboa 33, Pelisamen 28, Estolas 17, Demapan 10, Peredo 4, De Guzman 3, Galzote 1.

Scoring by quarters: 29-22, 53-48, 82-70, 112-96.

Second Game

AXE Proa 88 – Pua 14, Sablan 12, Rabauliman 11, Barcinas 11, Pagarao 10, Libuw 10, Rosario 6, Lizama 4, Babauta 3, Inos 2.

Toka Degree 69 – Camacho 23, Ja. Joyner 22, Deleon Guerrero 9, Mendiola 8, Reyes 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-9, 36-29, 64-49, 88-69.

GCA

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man High School (2-7).

Three more games were scheduled last Monday with MHS, Kagman, and MBA downing separate foes. The Dolphins saw action on the north court against Kagman and gained the outright win after prevailing in the first two sets, 25-14, 25-16. The Ayuyus avoided a shutout when it took the third set, 15-10.

Kagman played another match on the north court and after losing the first set to the Knights, 15-25, the Ayuyus managed to steal the win after recovering in the last two sets, 25-19, 15-7.

On the southern end, MBA also grabbed the win from MBA despite faltering in the opening set. The Dolphins won the first set by four points, 25-21, before the Stormz bounced back with 25-12, 15-13 victories in the last two sets

In other results, SIS extended its winning run on Oct. 21, following a straight set triumph over Mt. Carmel in the second game on the north court, 25-22, 25-22, 15-10. On the southern end, GCA kept pace with SIS, as the Eagles also recorded a sweep against Kagman, 25-13, 25-20, 15-7. In the first game on the south court, the Rays booked an early win against the Dolphins after prevailing in the first two sets, 25-19, 27-25. On the northern side, MBA also notched the automatic win, 25-21, 30-28, before falling to Mt. Carmel in the last set, 6-15.

In last Wednesday's results, Kagman barged into the win column after slipping past Southern in the first game on the south court, 21-25, 25-16, 15-12. On the north end, the Geckos saved another win after topping MHS, 25-23, 25-21, 15-13. In the other game on the north end, the Eagles dominated the Knights, 25-22, 25-14, 15-6, while MBA handed Southern back-to-back losses after prevailing in their game on the south end, 27-25, 22-25, 16-14.

Meanwhile, this year's MISO volleyball league has two more playing days (today and on Friday) before organizers hold a double-elimination tournament (Nov. 8 to 9) to determine the season champion.

TAN

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out victory, scoring a pair of goals, while Sun Joon Tenorio and Aaron Lee chipped in one apiece.

Tenorio broke the ice for MP United, making a goal in the 15th minute while Lim got his first two minutes later. Aaron Lee nailed his goal 10 minutes in second half, while Lim closed out the scoring for MP United with his goal in the 59th.

In the second game, Tan Holdings FC clobbered Shirley's FC, 6-1.

Christian Ruiz logged two goals for Tan Holdings FC, which got the other goals from four different players. James Roger Garcia drew first blood for Tan Holdings FC, while Jun Kim also scored in the first half, which ended with the eventual winning club ahead, 3-0, as Ruiz nailed the last goal for his team in the opening frame.

Ryan Relucio made it a 4-0 advantage early in the second half, while Ruiz earned his second goal midway, and Mareko Tekopua completed Tan Holdings FC demolition of Shirley's FC after finding the back of the net in the closing minutes. Shirley's FC avoided a shutout when Carmelino Garcia scored in the 75th.

Meanwhile, Tan Holdings played a make-up game against Matansa FC last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field and also prevailed, 2-1.

Both teams were scoreless in the first half before Tan Holdings drilled back-to-back goals in a span of two minutes, courtesy of Ryan Relucio and Kim, who scored in the 61st and 63rd minute. James Ermitanio hit the lone goal for Matansa in the 76th.

Tan Holdings was victorious, too, in the boys U18 match last Saturday at the Oleai pitch after whipping Paire, 9-2.

Sean Perez was unstoppable for Tan Holdings, as he earned six goals. Dale Ballesteros contributed two, while Yoshia Mafnas hit one.

Two more matches were set in last Saturday's NMIFA youth league, but results in the girls U15 division games were unavailable at press time.

NMA All Schools Cross Country Series 3 Part 2

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Runners in the U10 and U12 age group head to the course during the 2013 NMA All Schools Cross Country Series 3 held last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

Three Saipan Community School runners go for the second and final lap of the race.

Two runners head back to the starting point of the course for the second lap of the race.

A runner nears completion of the first lap of the course.

Two runners sprint to the finish line.

Volunteers check on a finisher.

Amami Sakano is on his way to the second and final lap of the U18 race.

NMA coach Elias Rangamar gives instructions to the U14 and U18 runners during a race briefing.

Runners slow down as they go for the second lap of the course.

GCA hands SIS first defeat

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy denied Saipan International School's bid for a perfect regular season after winning their second meeting in the 2013-2014 MISO Boys Volleyball League last Monday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Eagles rallied past the Geckos, 18-25, 25-20, 15-10, to snap SIS' winning streak. With the big win, GCA did not only avenge its earlier loss to SIS, but also gain a share of the lead with the Geckos. The Eagles and the Geckos hold identical 9-1 records to lead Marianas Baptist Academy (5-5), Saipan Southern High School (4-6), MHS (4-7), Mt. Carmel School (3-8), and Kag-

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A Grace Christian Academy player receives a serve from Mt. Carmel School during their game in the MISO volleyball league last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

I Love Ladder Beach, Proa stretch streak

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

AXE Proa's Jack Lizama attacks the defense of the Hoopaholics' Kelvin Fitial during the fourth quarter of their game in the UFO Open caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

I Love Ladder Beach and AXE Proa kept their unbeaten records last week after prevailing against separate opponents in the UFO-Budweiser Open Division Basketball League at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

I Love Ladder Beach won a shootout against Mobil/JP World (1-3) in last Thursday's

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Tan Holdings sweeps games, MPU prevails

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With Mother Nature's cooperation, the 2013 NMIFA Youth Fall League completed the two games scheduled last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field with Tan Holdings FC and MP United FC dominating separate opponents.

MP United FC gained a 4-0 victory over Paire in the first game in the boys U15 division, which either called off its games or played only one for the past several weeks due to the bad weather. Daniel Lim led the shut-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire FC and MP United FC chase the ball at the sideline during the second half of their game in the boys U15 division of the NMIFA fall league last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.